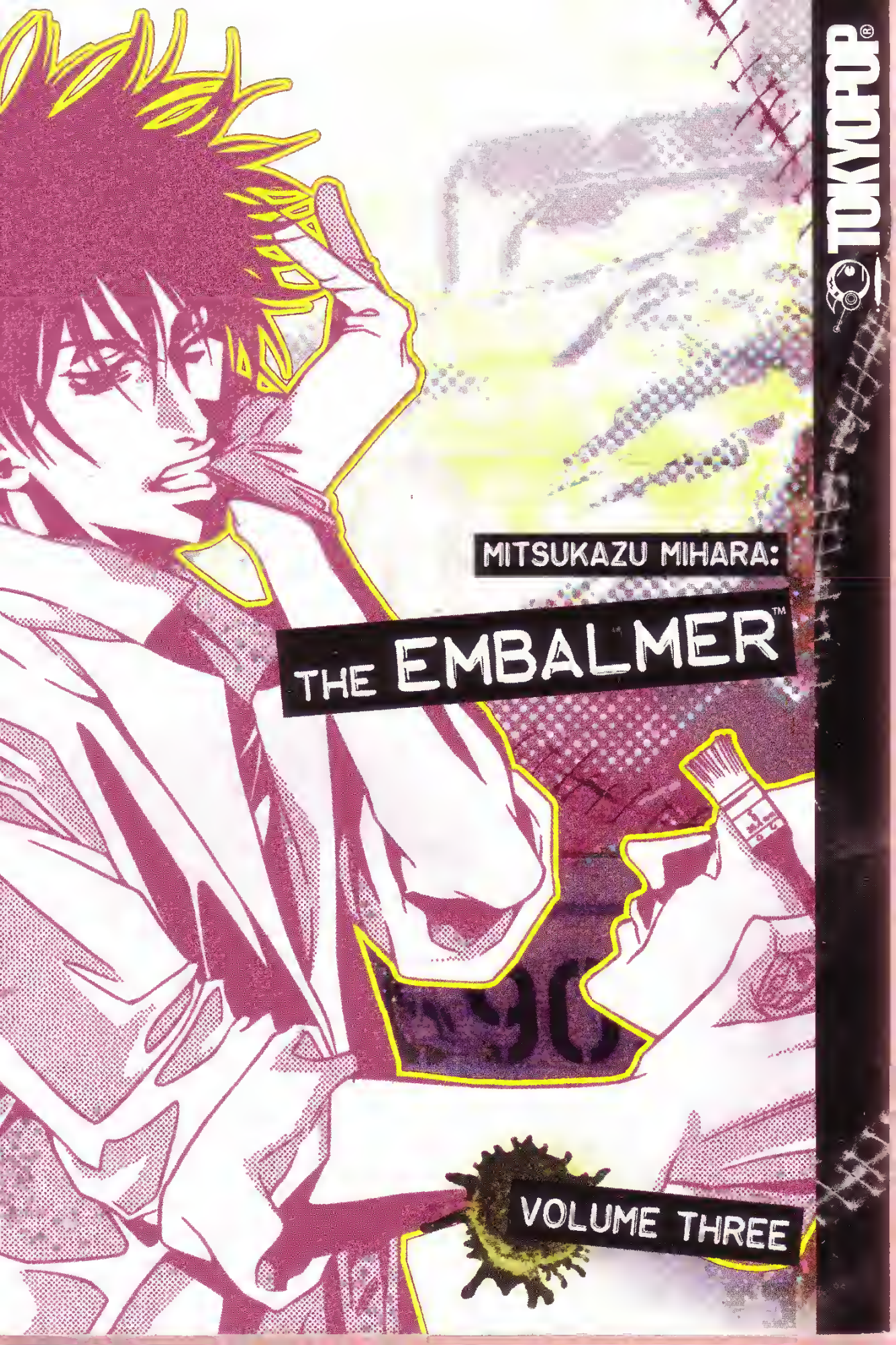

TOKYOPOP
MITSUKAZU MIHARA:
THE EMBALMER™
VOLUME THREE

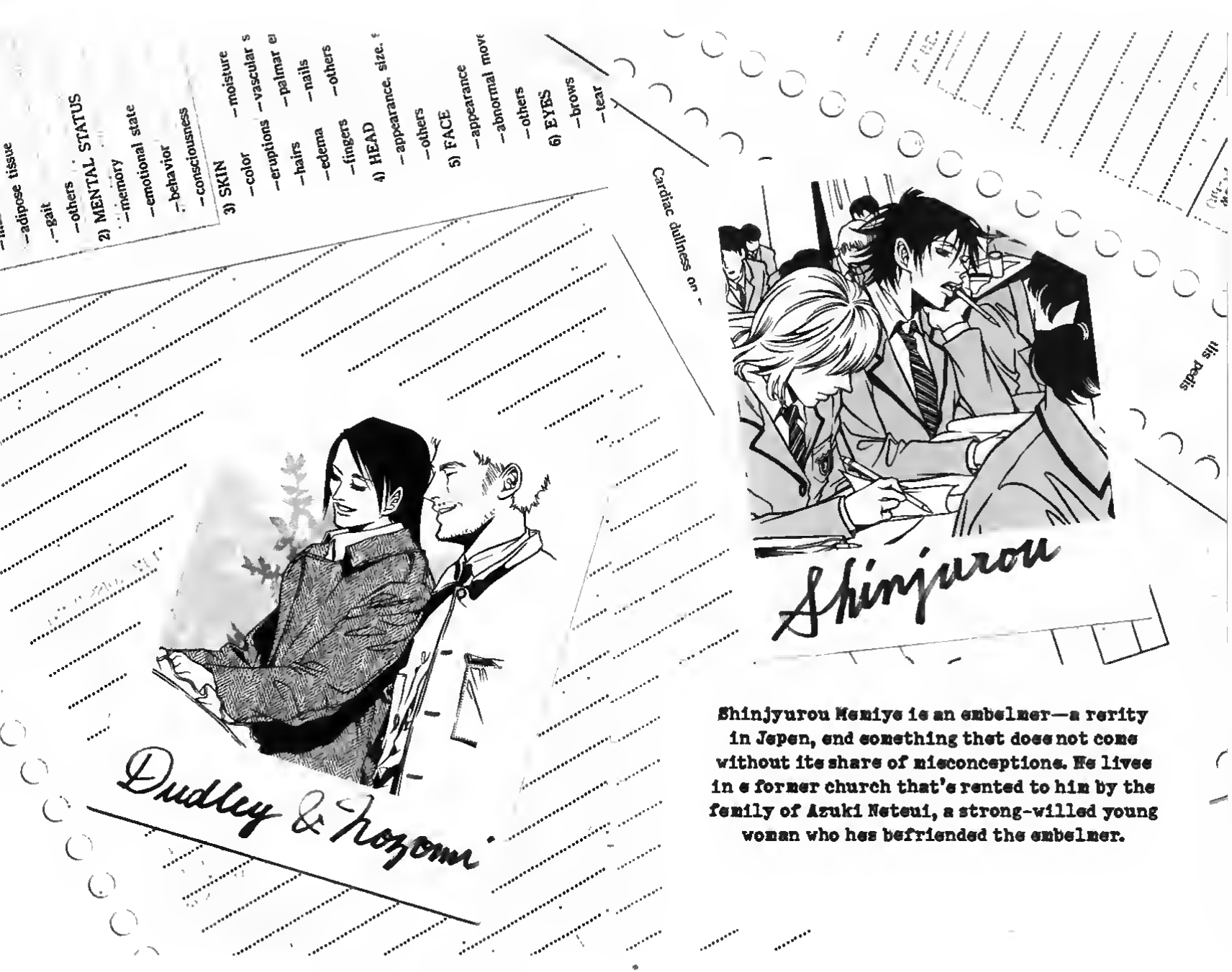
THE EMBALMER™

Vol. 3

by Mitsukazu Mihara

TOKYOPOP®

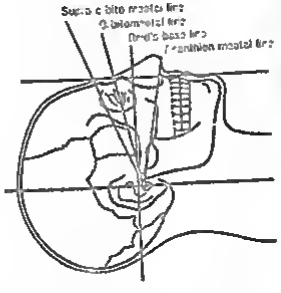
HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

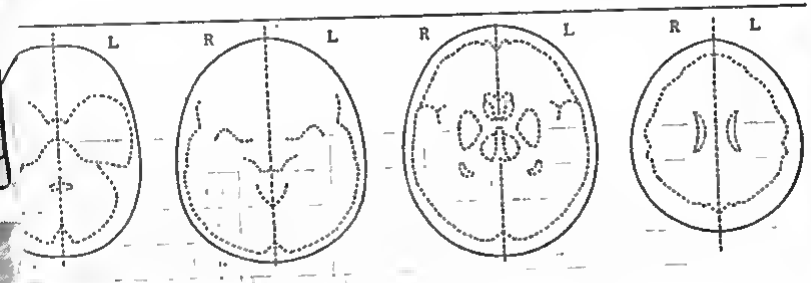


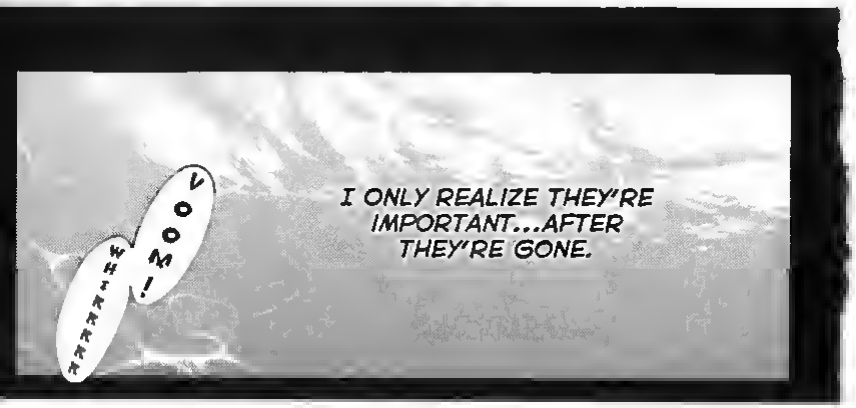
Shinjyurou Kamiya is an embalmer—a rarity in Japan, and something that does not come without its share of misconceptions. He lives in a former church that's rented to him by the family of Azuki Natsui, a strong-willed young woman who has befriended the embalmer.

contents

EMBALMING 12 p7
EMBALMING 13 p37
EMBALMING 14 p55
EMBALMING 15 p81
EMBALMING 16 p99
EMBALMING 17 p121
EMBALMING 18 p141
EMBALMING 19 p159







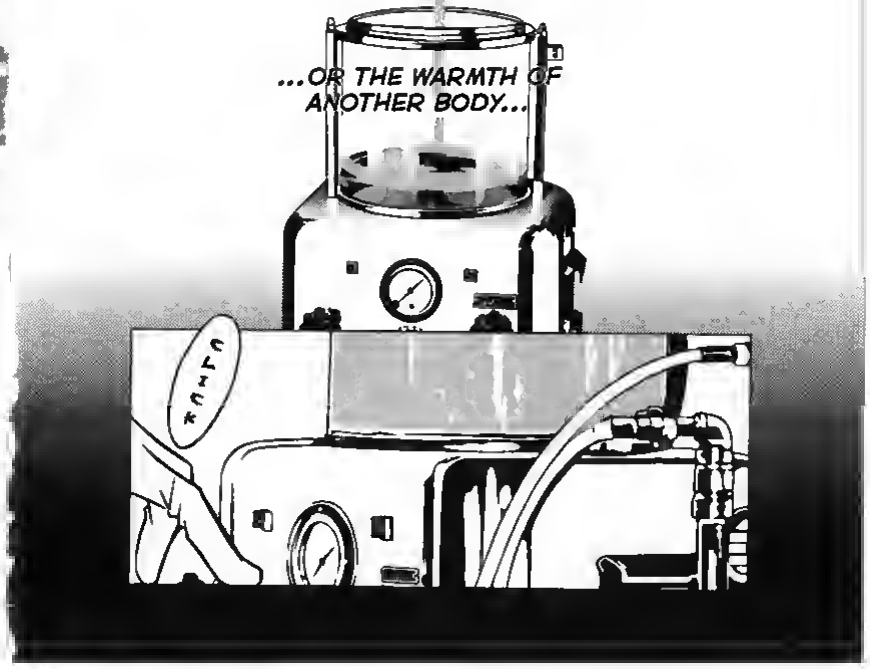
Embalming 12
Shinjyurou, Part 1

LIKE LOSING MY FAVORITE GLOVES...

...OR THAT GIRL WHO USED TO LIVE NEXT DOOR...

LIKE MY MOM AND DAD...

...OR THE WARMTH OF ANOTHER BODY...

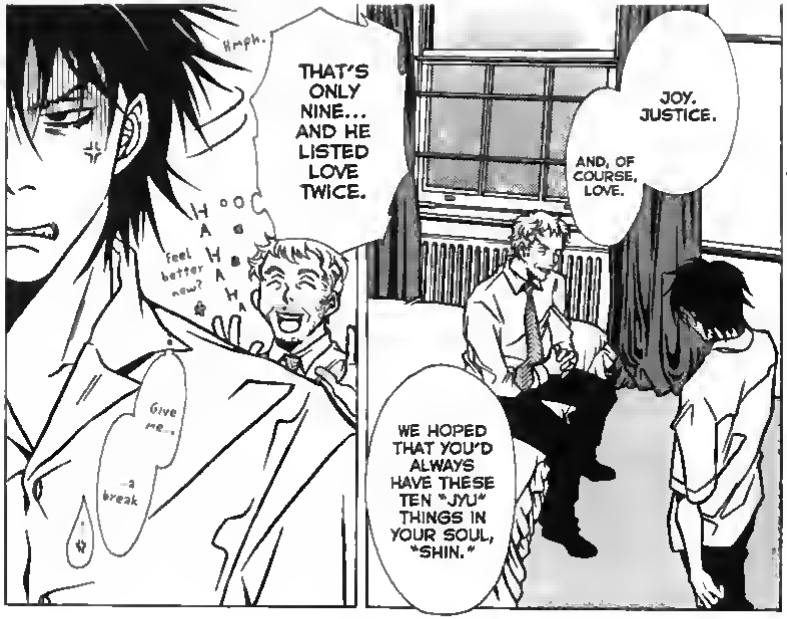


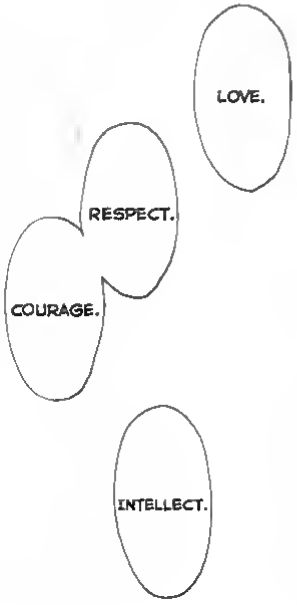
SHINJYUROU! WELCOME HOME!!
HMM... GOTTEN TALLER, EH?
MAGNIFICENT! HOW YOU'VE GROWN!
PEOPLE DON'T GET TALLER IN JUST THREE DAYS.
EASY! THE FLOWERS...

YEAH.
TOMORROW I'M GONNA DROWN MYSELF WITH YOUR GIRLFRIEND.
AFTER ALL, "SHINJYUU" MEANS "DOUBLE SUICIDE," DON'T IT?
.....
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF FREE TIME FOR SOMEONE IN COLLEGE PREP.
OR ARE YA GIVING UP ON COLLEGE? GONNA KILL YOURSELF WITH SOME CHICK INSTEAD?
I WAS TOO CHILDISH TO IGNORE THEIR TAUNTS AND TOO ADULT TO WANT THEIR COMPANY, SO I NEVER REALLY HAD ANY FRIENDS.
I'M HOME.

SHE WAS ALWAYS IN PAIN AND SUFFERING FROM FEVERS.
HERE. YOU FORGOT TO TAKE YOUR PILLS AGAIN.
110 キュ!!
SHIN!
THAT'S BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE AROUND HERE CAN BE COUNTED ON!
HA HA! YOU CAN REALLY COUNT ON HIM, CAN'T YOU?
YEAH, YEAH.
NO TEA! ONLY WATER!
どけ
DEAD PEOPLE. MEANWHILE, HE IGNORES ALL THE LIVING ONES HE HAS AT HOME.
THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE WHO NEED HIM!
YOU KNOW HOW HARD YOUR FATHER WORKS!

LOOK HONEY! OUR SON BROUGHT US FLOWERS!
WOW! WHAT A CARING SON I'VE GOT!
FLOWERS?
They were for MOM
THEY HAD YOUR FAVORITES- PEONIES. HOW ARE YOU FEELING?
I'M PRETTY GOOO TODAY.
THANKS FOR THE FLOWERS, SHIN.
MY MOTHER HAD AN INCURABLE BLOOD-DISEASE-THE KIND THAT AFFECTS YOUR BONE MARROW.

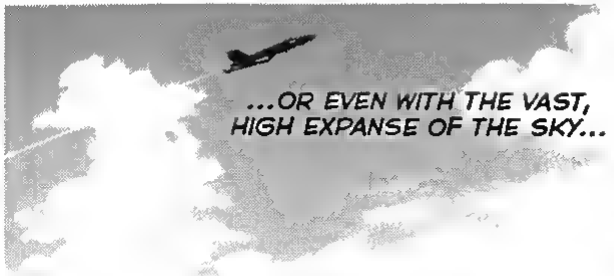

Hmph.
THAT'S ONLY NINE... AND HE LISTED LOVE TWICE.
HA HA HA
feel better now?
Give me... a break
JOY. JUSTICE.
AND, OF COURSE, LOVE.
WE HOPED THAT YOU'D ALWAYS HAVE THESE TEN "JYU" THINGS IN YOUR SOUL, "SHIN."


LOVE.
RESPECT.
COURAGE.
INTELLECT.

I WORK SO MUCH BECAUSE I WANT YOU TWO TO BE HAPPY. LAST THING YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT IS MONEY.
AND BESIDES, YOU'RE ALWAYS CLOSE.
OH REALLY?!
WHAT YOU DO MAKES PEOPLE'S SKIN CRAWL!

AND YOU GAVE ME A CURSED NAME! SHINJYUU, SHINJYUROU... IT'S BAD LUCK!

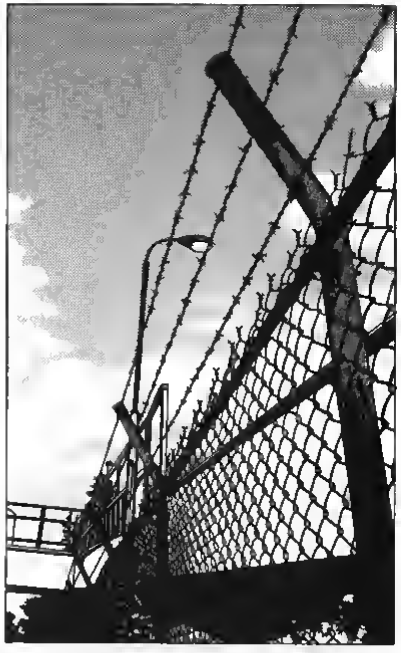
HONESTY.
KINDNESS.
OH!
SHINJYUROU! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND?
WHAT?
YOUR NAME ENCOMPASSES SO MANY THINGS...

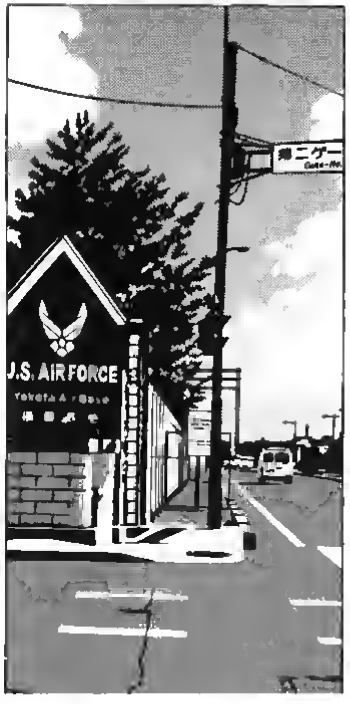


...OR EVEN WITH THE VAST, HIGH EXPANSE OF THE SKY...

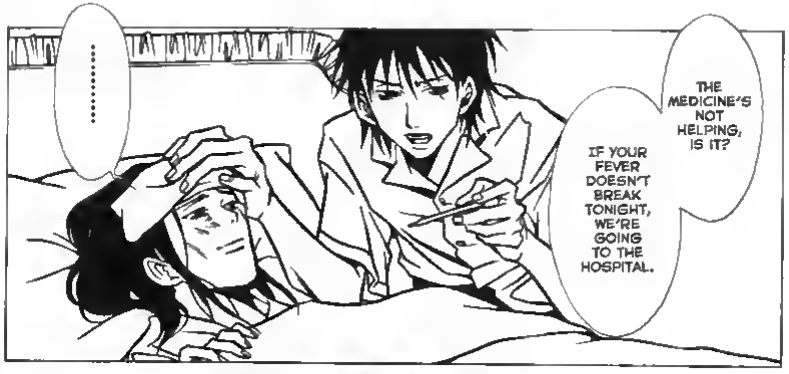
I WASN'T COMFORTABLE WITH MY FATHER...

...OR THE MILITARY BASE WE LIVED ON WITH ITS HIGH FENCES...





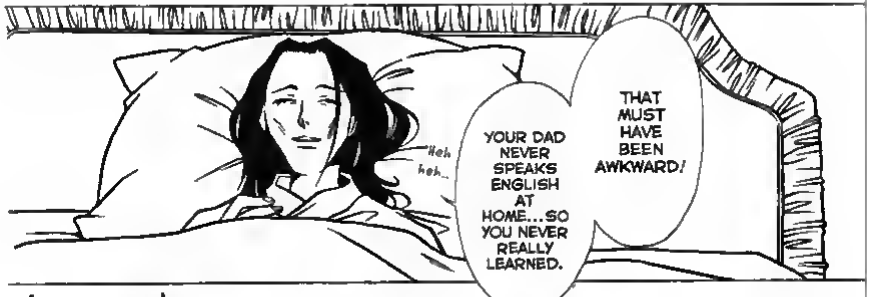
...OR THE HOT, DRY, DUSTY AIR...


.....
IF YOUR FEVER DOESN'T BREAK TONIGHT, WE'RE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL.
THE MEDICINE'S NOT HELPING, IS IT?

I USED TO WORK PART TIME AT THE CAMP'S BOWLING ALLEY, YOU KNOW.
LIKE WHEN I FIRST MET YOUR FATHER. HEH HEH...
AND YOUR DAD! HE ALWAYS THREW WEIRD THINGS IN MY LANE!
WE USED TO SET THE PINS UP BY HAND.
SOCCER BALLS, CAB-BAGES... AND EVEN A MANNE-QUIN'S HEAD!

I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I SEEM LOST IN MEMORIES TODAY.

WELL, EXCUSE ME! I'M ONLY HALF AMERICAN!


"Heh heh..."
YOUR DAD NEVER SPEAKS ENGLISH AT HOME...SO YOU NEVER REALLY LEARNED.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN AWKWARD!

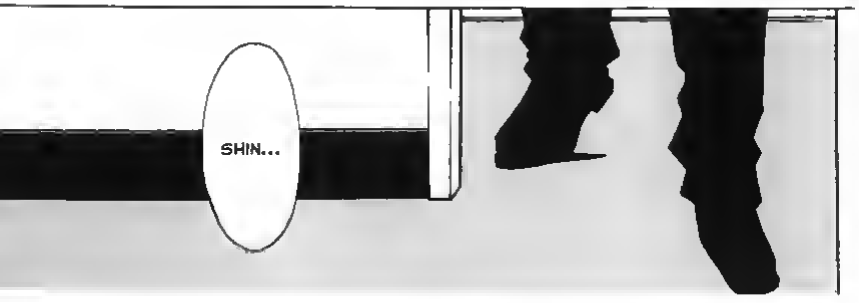
SCISSORS
I'D RATHER BE NORMAL.
...AND YOU'LL NEVER HAVE TO GO THROUGH THE TROUBLE OF DYING YOUR HAIR.
WHY? YOU'VE GOT PRETTY EYES... LIKE JADE...
I WISH I LOOKED MORE LIKE YOU, MOM.
IT'S NOT FUNNY.

.....
SORRY.
UH...
SHIN?
IT REALLY ANNOYED ME THAT SHE TALKED ABOUT MY FATHER SO LOVINGLY. HE WAS NEVER THERE FOR HER!
I'LL GO START DINNER. YOU REST, OKAY?
TO BE HONEST, I WAS AFRAID.

NOZOMI, IF YOU ACCEPT THIS, I KNOW I CAN MAKE YOU HAPPY...
ONE DAY, A FUNNY LITTLE ROUND BOUQUET ROLLED IN!
THAT WAS JUST LIKE HIM.
STOP IT!
I WAS SO HAPPY WHEN YOU WERE BORN!
EVEN THOUGH IT WAS A DIFFICULT BIRTH.
I THINK I'VE ONLY MADE IT THIS LONG BECAUSE I HAVE YOU AND YOUR FATHER.

THERE IS NO SUREFIRE TREATMENT FOR THE ILLNESS...
...BUT WE CAN PROVIDE BLOOD TRANSFUSIONS AND HOPE FOR THE BEST.
THAT'S TREATABLE, RIGHT? WITH A BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT OR SOMETHING?
THE DOCTOR'S VOICE...

...SOUNDED AS IF IT WERE A MILLION MILES AWAY.

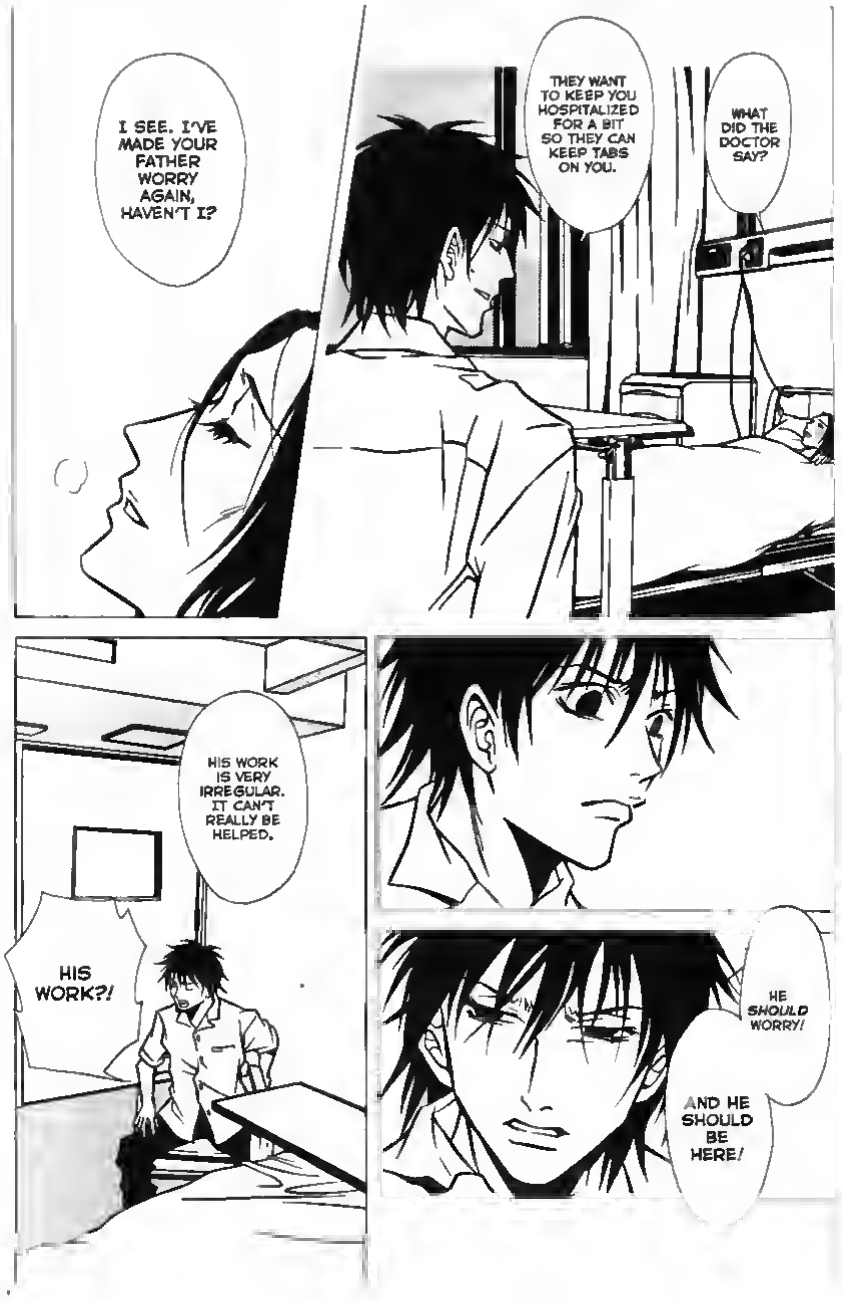

SHIN...

I THOUGHT THAT I WOULD LOSE MY MOTHER.

IT WOULD BE BEST TO HAVE HER HOSPITALIZED.

IS IT THAT BAD?
SOME ENLARGEMENT CAN BE SEEN IN THE SPLEEN.
THERE IS A POSSIBILITY IT COULD DEVELOP INTO LEUKEMIA.

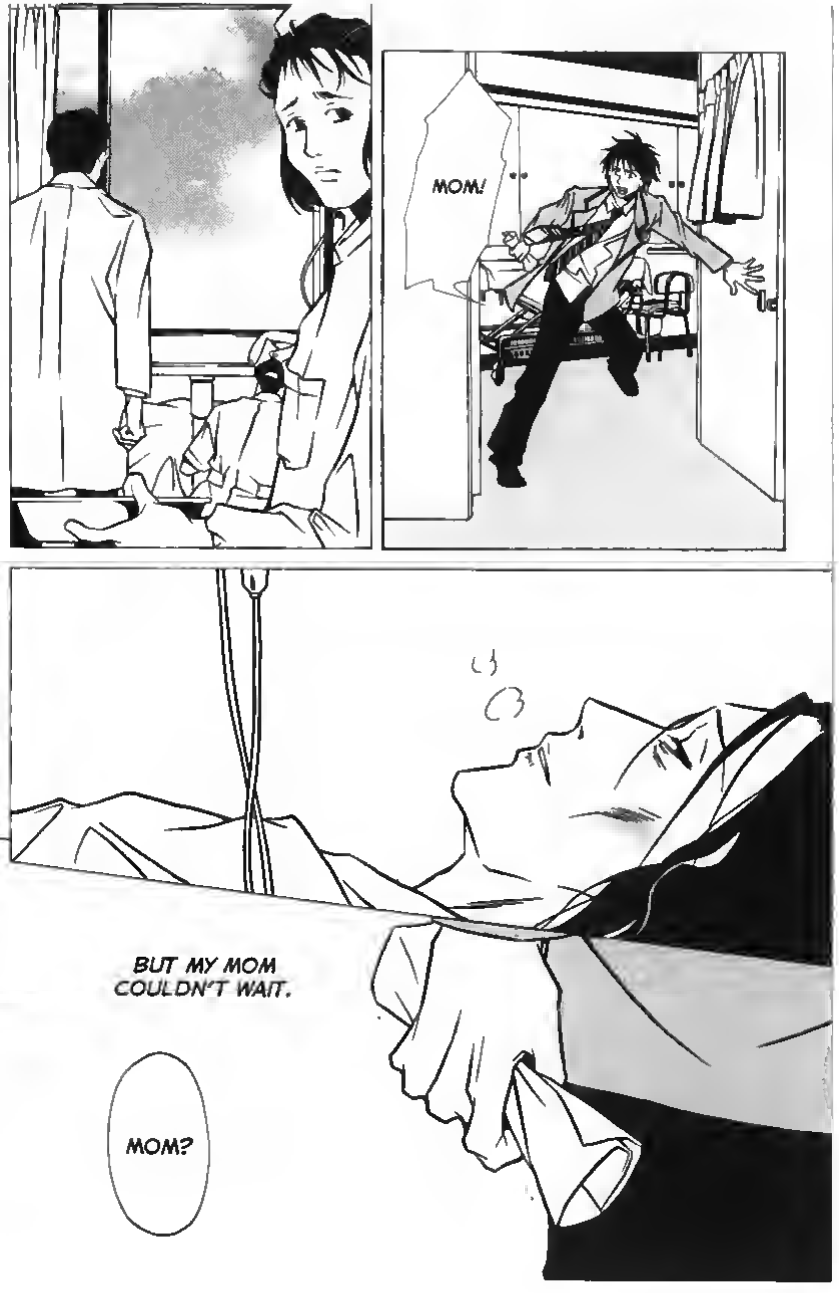
IT'S MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN YOU ARE?!
WHY DO YOU DEFEND HIM ALL THE TIME?!
I'LL NEVER UNDER-STAND.
WHAT CAN I SAY TO MAKE YOU UNDER-STAND...
NO. I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND... SOMEDAY.
...HOW IMPORTANT HIS WORK IS?


I SEE. I'VE MADE YOUR FATHER WORRY AGAIN, HAVEN'T I?
THEY WANT TO KEEP YOU HOSPITALIZED FOR A BIT SO THEY CAN KEEP TABS ON YOU.
WHAT DID THE DOCTOR SAY?
HIS WORK IS VERY IRREGULAR. IT CAN'T REALLY BE HELPED.
HIS WORK?!
HE *SHOULD* WORRY!
AND HE SHOULD BE HERE!

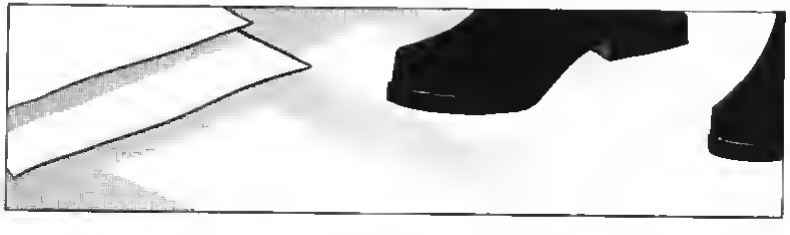
MY PRAYERS WERE GRANTED. MY MOTHER'S ILLNESS DIDN'T DEVELOP INTO LEUKEMIA.
HUFF!
HUFF!
HUFF!
HEY!
NO RUNNING IN HERE!

I'M NOT LIKE MY FATHER.
MAMIYA, YOU'RE INTERESTED IN THE PRE-MED AT TOKYO UNIVERSITY?
NO, THAT'S OKAY.
IT'S A GOOD IDEA TO KEEP YOUR OPTIONS OPEN. IF YOU WANT TO APPLY TO ADDITIONAL SCHOOLS, NOW'S THE TIME~
JUST THE ONE SCHOOL?
I'LL BE A DOCTOR. I'LL HELP PEOPLE LIVE.
I'LL GET IN.

LOOK! I PASSED!
WHEN I'M A DOCTOR, I'LL HELP CURE YOU AND–
?!


MOM!
BUT MY MOM COULDN'T WAIT.
MOM?

WHAT TOOK MY MOTHER'S LIFE WAS PLAIN OLD PNEUMONIA.



YOUR FATHER WILL BE HERE FOR ME AT THE END. HE PROMISED.

IT'S ALL RIGHT, SHINJYUROU.

EMBALMING IS FOR THE LIVING.
AS IF I COULD FORGET. I LOVED NOZOMI WITH ALL MY HEART...EVEN THOUGH I KNEW THIS DAY WOULD COME.
SHINJYUROU, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

DON'T YOU KNOW HOW TO CARE FOR THE LIVING?!

WITHOUT FAIL, I WILL BE THERE FOR YOU AT THE END.

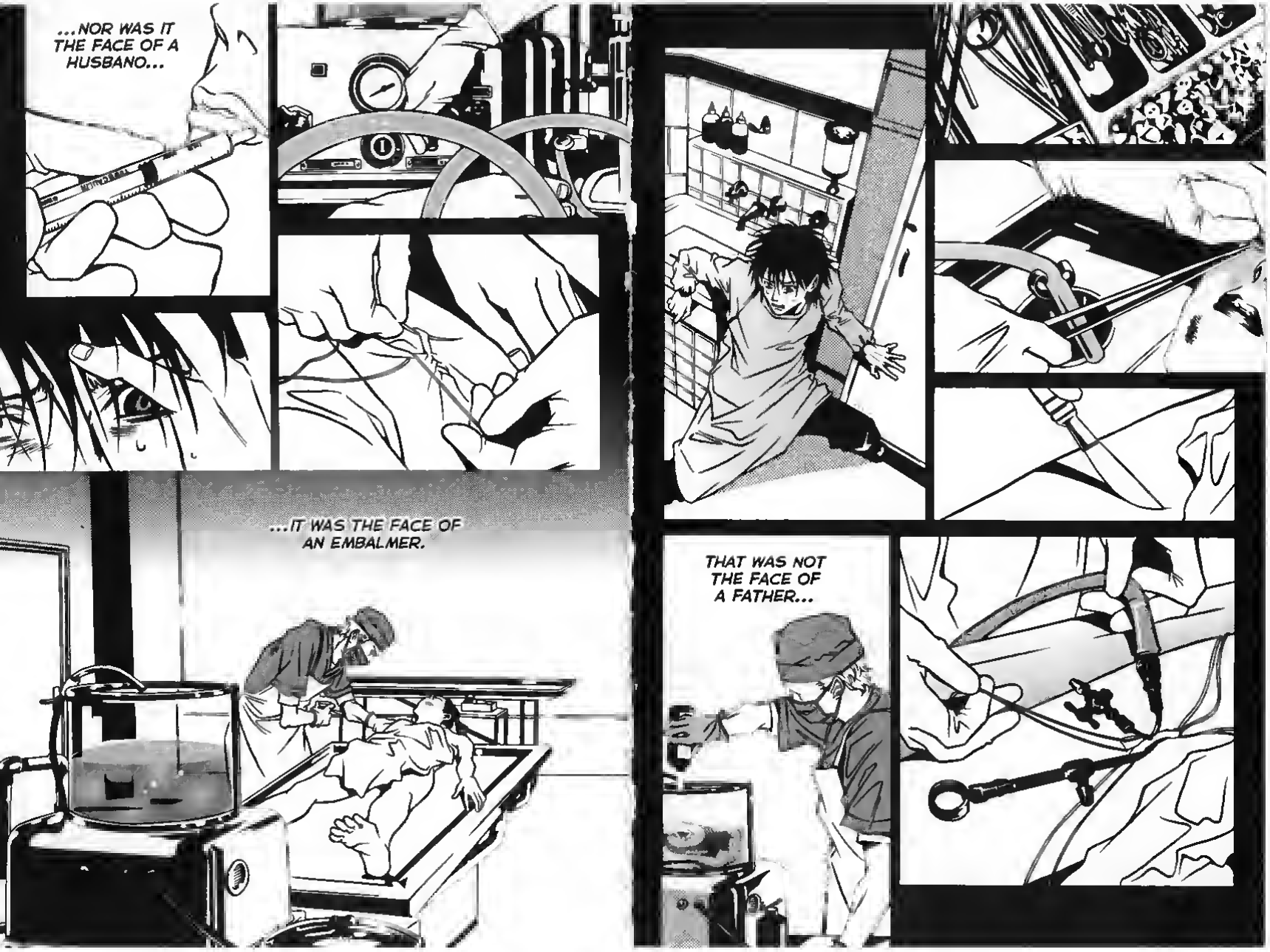
...THEY ARE NOT CORPSES.
THEY ARE PEOPLE.
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME?
AND WHAT PROMISE?! YOU COULDN'T EVEN SAVE HER!
SHINJYU-ROU...
WHILE YOU WERE FUCKING AROUND WITH CORPSES MOH—

Embalming 13
Shinjyurou, Part 2

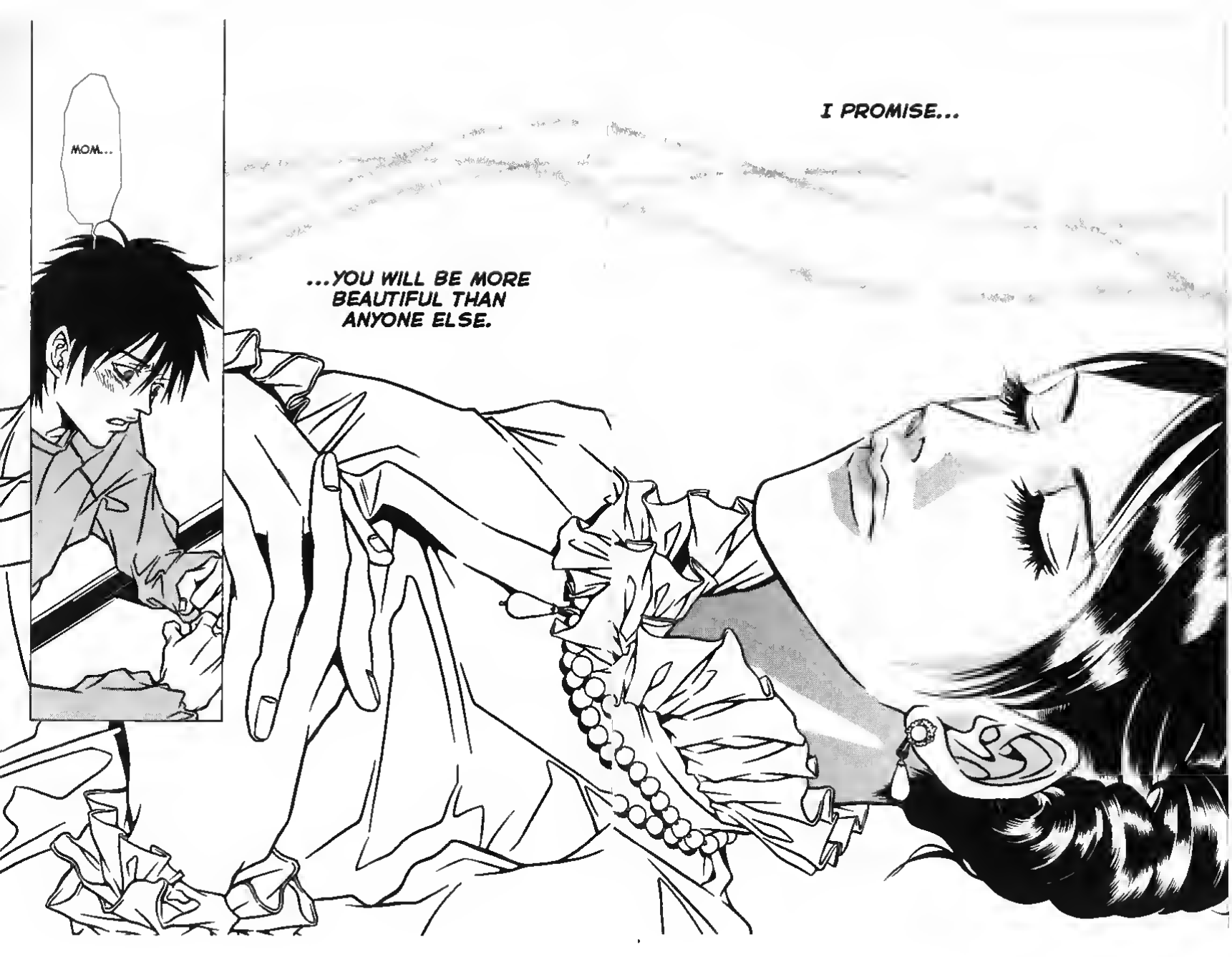
NO, I'M SURE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND... SOMEDAY.
I...DON'T UNDERSTAND.
Sniff!
...PUT THIS ON.
THE MASK, TOO.
SHINJYU-ROU...
CLICK
ガチッ
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK. WAIT HERE.
HEY, DUDLEY. WORKING LATE AGAIN?

THIS WAS MY PROMISE TO HER.
SHINJYUROU, IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE A DOCTOR... PAY ATTENTION.
THAT CAN'T BE MOM!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

GASP!
N-NO... THAT...
!


...NOR WAS IT THE FACE OF A HUSBAND...
...IT WAS THE FACE OF AN EMBALMER.
THAT WAS NOT THE FACE OF A FATHER...

SHINJYU-ROU...
COME, SHINJYU-ROU.


MOM...
...YOU WILL BE MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANYONE ELSE.
I PROMISE...

.....
SHINJYU-ROU...
!
...I KNOW YOU'RE GOING THROUGH A LOT.
YOU UNDERSTAND?! THEN WHY DON'T YOU SHED A TEAR OR TWO, YOU HYPOCRITE!
SHUT UP!!
...AND THAT'S AN IMPORTANT THING.
TO KNOW WEAKNESS AND HUMAN FRAILTY... HELPS YOU TO UNDERSTAND OTHER PEOPLE'S PAIN...
BUT...THE BEAUTIFUL MEMORIES STAY IN YOUR HEART FOREVER.
HUMANS ARE SO FRAGILE. OUR MINDS DO A GOOD JOB OF ERASING OUR PAINFUL MEMORIES.
YOUR MOTHER WANTED THIS.
I WANTED YOU TO SEE HER LIKE THIS... BECAUSE YOU'VE ONLY EVER SEEN HER SICK.
YOU CAN'T ERASE THE MEMORY OF SOMEONE YOU LOVE.
THAT'S WHY EMBALMERS EXIST.

SO... COLD.
MY HANDS ARE COLD.
DISTANCING HIMSELF WITH HIS STUPID SERMONS...
SHINJYUROU!
IF HE DID, HOW COULO HE OO SOMETHING LIKE-
HE NEVER LOVEO HER.
OH, DEAR, DEAR. DRUNK?
PLEASE...
...LET ME HOLD YOU FOR A LITTLE I PROMISE I WON'T TRY ANYTHING.
MY HANDS ARE SO...
Shit! Are you blind?

I NEEDED THE FEEL OF LIVING FLESH. THE HEAT OF IT...

NEEDED IT MORE THAN FOOD...OR WATER.

NEEDED IT MORE THAN AIR.

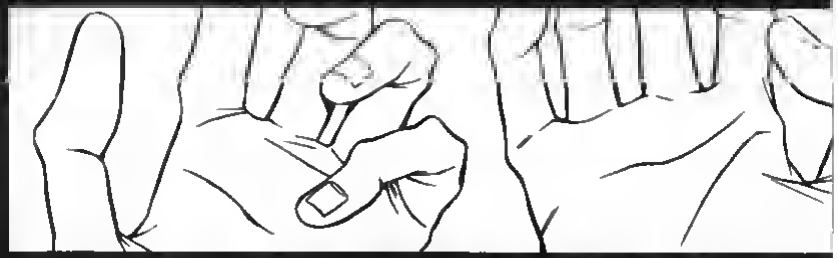
AH...
OH...
MMM...
I-I...
I WANT YOU. I WANT YOU NOW.
NO...
PLEASE LET ME TOUCH YOU JUST A LITTLE MORE.
AAH!
THE WARMTH TRANSMITTED TO MY PALMS. THE HEAT SEDUCED MY FINGERTIPS.

I RAN FROM THE BASE...
AND THEN...
WAY TO MAKE A GIRL FEEL LOVED.
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T TAKE MONEY FROM A HIGH SCHOOL KID.
ESPECIALLY ONE WHO REALLY DIDN'T TRY ANYTHING.
I was a little disappointed
FUCK.
I GOTTA GET HOME.

BLAH
I NEEDED THE WARMTH OF HER FLESH!
UH...
GASP!
!
.....
I...

I...DON'T DESERVE LOVE.

Embalming 14
Shinjyurou, Part 3



ON THE DAY MY MOTHER DIED?!

HOW COULD I?!

NOW, I'LL REMEMBER THESE TWO COLD HANDS OVER AND OVER...WHENEVER I TRY TO TOUCH SOMEONE I LOVE.

I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
I LOVE YOU.
NOZOMI ...
ZZZ...
NOZO... MI...
I LOVE YOU...
I LOVE... YOU...
OOH...
HE PROMISED.
YOUR FATHER WILL BE THERE FOR ME AT THE END.

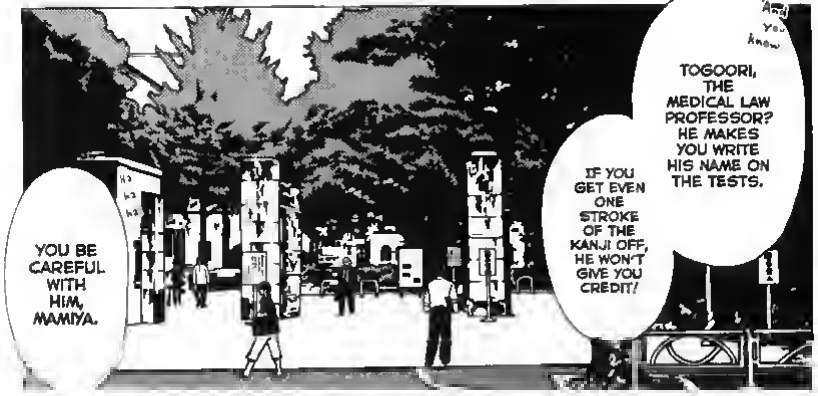
I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT.
I SEE.
WELL... JUST REMEMBER...
...I AM ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.
NO MATTER WHAT THE BATTLEFIELD, GO FORTH WITHOUT FEAR.

WITHOUT FAIL, I WILL BE THERE FOR YOU AT THE END.

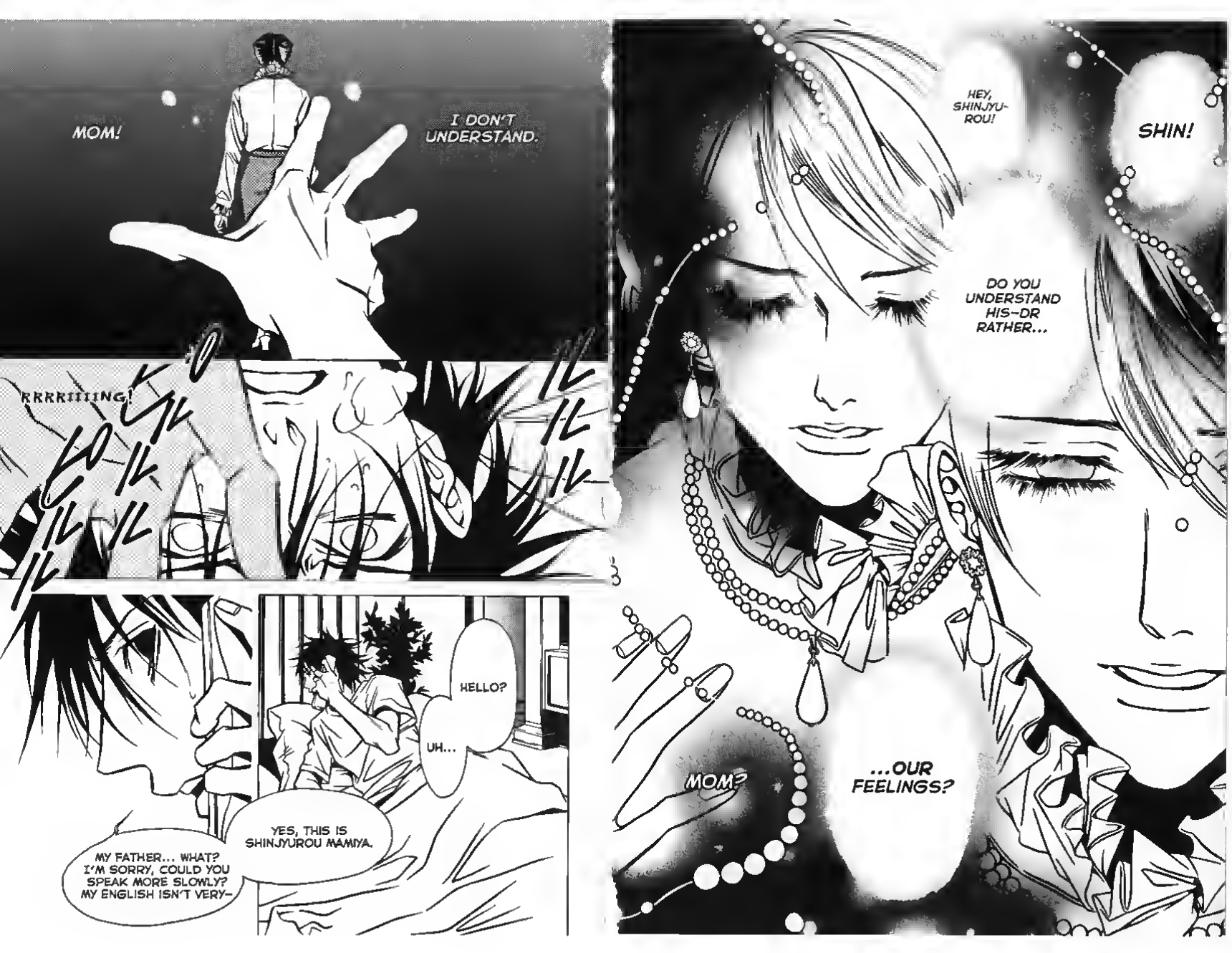
HEY, WHO'S HE?
WHO?
THAT GUY OVER THERE READING. HE ALWAYS SMELLS LIKE INCENSE.
OH, YOU MEAN KOBAYASHI? HE'S REALLY SERIOUS ABOUT SCHOOL. PEOPLE EVEN LINE UP TO COPY HIS NOTES BEFORE TESTS!
I THINK HIS FAMILY RUNS A MORTUARY AND--

MORTU-ARY?
Yeah, huh?
I WONDER WHY HE'S IN MED SCHOOL?
MAYBE IF YOU SEE A LOT OF CORPSES GROWING UP, YOU END UP WANTING TO SAVE LIVES.

AFTER THAT, MY FATHER LEFT FOR THE REAL BATTLEFIELD IN THE MIDDLE EAST-A CIVILIAN EMBALMER IN THE ARMY... AND I WENT ON TO MEDICAL SCHOOL.

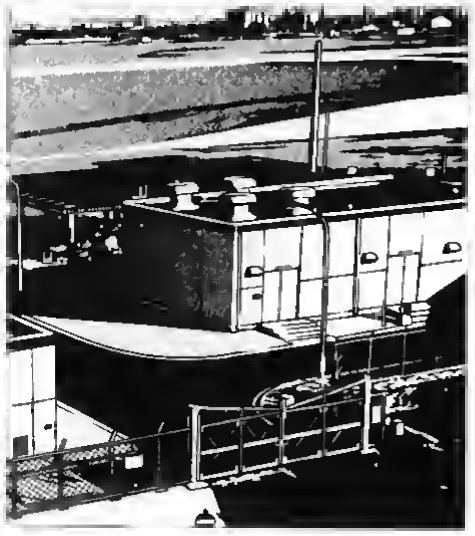

YOU BE CAREFUL WITH HIM, MAMIYA.
IF YOU GET EVEN ONE STROKE OF THE KANJI OFF, HE WON'T GIVE YOU CREDIT!
TOGOORI, THE MEDICAL LAW PROFESSOR? HE MAKES YOU WRITE HIS NAME ON THE TESTS.
And you know...

WHATEVER. IT'S NOT LIKE I WANTED TO BE HIS FRIEND OR ANYTHING.
COLD...
HEY... ARE YOU GOING INTO CLINICAL PATHOLOGY?
I'M GRATEFUL TO MY PARENTS FOR LETTING ME CHOOSE.
ANOTHER ONE?
COMING HERE TO SCHOOL... IT HELPED ME MAKE UP MY MIND.
ANDTHER MORBID FREAK OBSESSED WITH CORPSES.
NO.
I'M TAKING OVER MY PARENTS' MORTUARY AFTER I GRADUATE.
WHAT?


MOM!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
RRRRIIIING!
HEY, SHINJYU-ROU!
SHIN!
DO YOU UNDERSTAND HIS-OR RATHER...
...OUR FEELINGS?
MOM?
HELLO?
UH...
YES, THIS IS SHINJYUROU MAMIYA.
MY FATHER... WHAT? I'M SORRY, COULD YOU SPEAK MORE SLOWLY? MY ENGLISH ISN'T VERY-

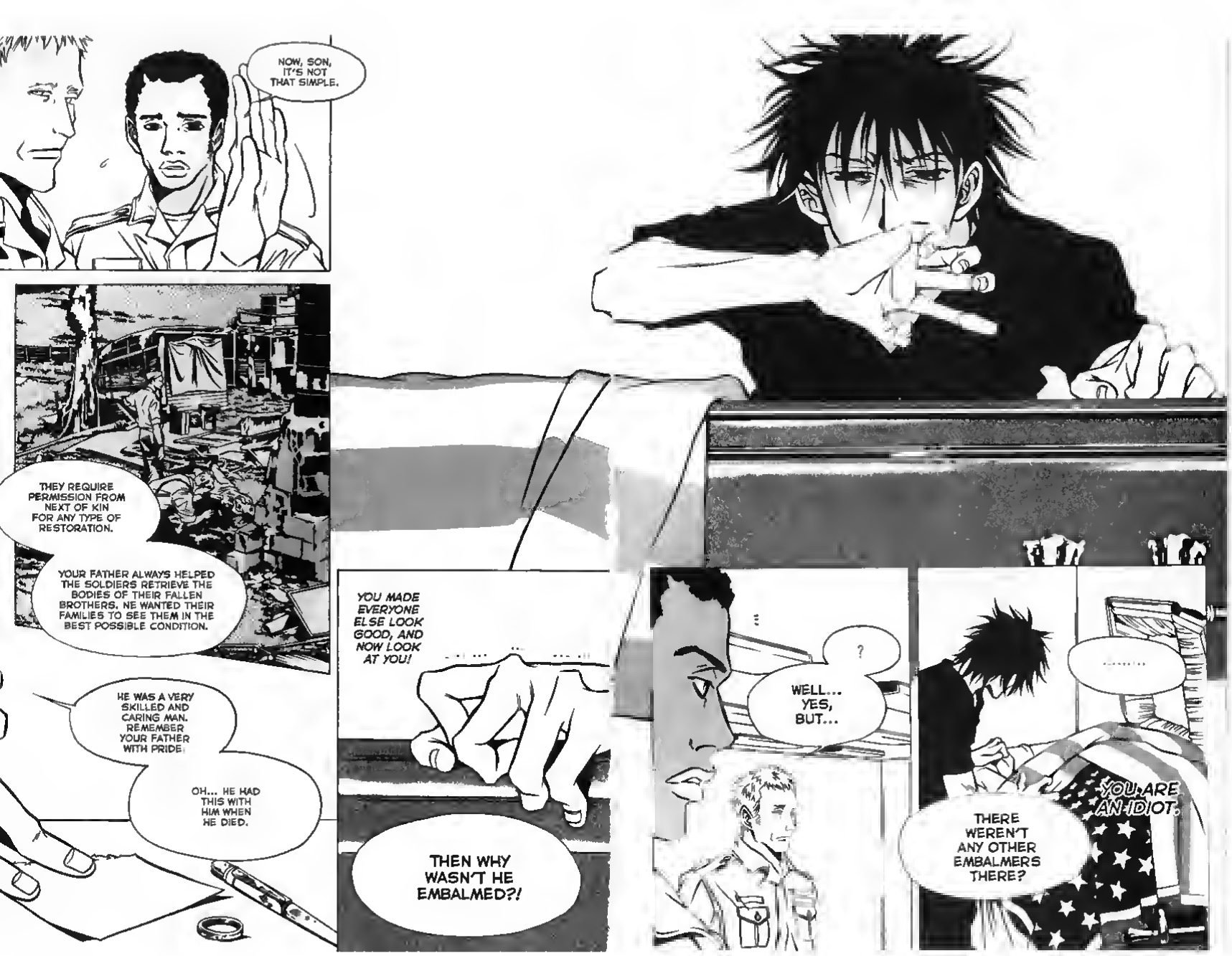
SON, I'M VERY SORRY FOR YOUR LOSS, BUT I'M AFRAID THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO ASK YOU TO DO.

COULD YOU PLEASE IDENTIFY THE BODY?



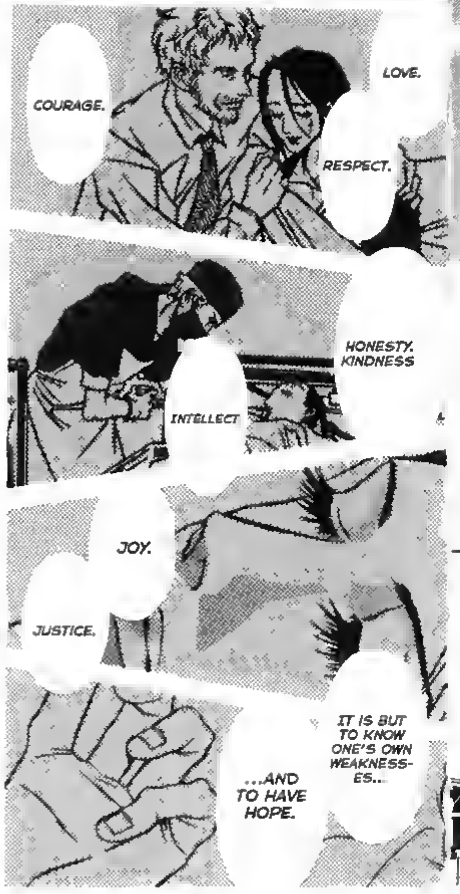
SHINJYUROU MAMIYA?
HE WAS WITH THE U.N. OBSERVER UNIT ON THE BORDER BETWEEN IRAQ AND KUWAIT.
TEN DAYS AGO HE WAS HELPING TO RETRIEVE THE BODIES OF SOME FALLEN SOLDIERS AND STEPPED ON A LAND MINE.

YOU MEAN... HE'S DEAD?


NOW, SON, IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.
THEY REQUIRE PERMISSION FROM NEXT OF KIN FOR ANY TYPE OF RESTORATION.
YOUR FATHER ALWAYS HELPED THE SOLDIERS RETRIEVE THE BODIES OF THEIR FALLEN BROTHERS. HE WANTED THEIR FAMILIES TO SEE THEM IN THE BEST POSSIBLE CONDITION.
HE WAS A VERY SKILLED AND CARING MAN. REMEMBER YOUR FATHER WITH PRIDE.
OH... HE HAD THIS WITH HIM WHEN HE DIED.
YOU MADE EVERYONE ELSE LOOK GOOD, AND NOW LOOK AT YOU!
THEN WHY WASN'T HE EMBALMED?!
WELL... YES, BUT...
THERE WEREN'T ANY OTHER EMBALMERS THERE?
YOU ARE AN IDIOT.

WE HOPED THAT YOU'D ALWAYS HAVE THESE TEN "JYU" THINGS IN YOUR SOUL, "SHIN."
IN JAPANESE... "YOSAWA" AND "KIBOU."
bright
fair
frailty
and
hope
bright, fair, ——...
THEY ARE GOOD WORDS. HOW DO YOU SAY THEM IN JAPANESE?
YOUR NAME ENCOMPASSES MANY THINGS...
"MEIROU," BRIGHT.
"KENSEI," FAIR.
frailty and hope...

MY FATHER LIVED HIS LIFE BY THE WORDS ENCOMPASSED IN MY NAME.



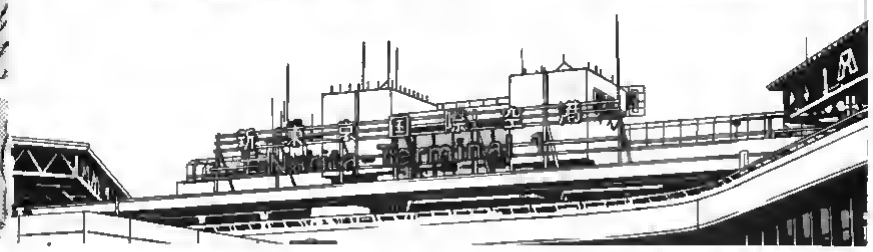
I DIDN'T WANT TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE WORK MY FATHER SACRIFICED HIS FAMILY FOR.

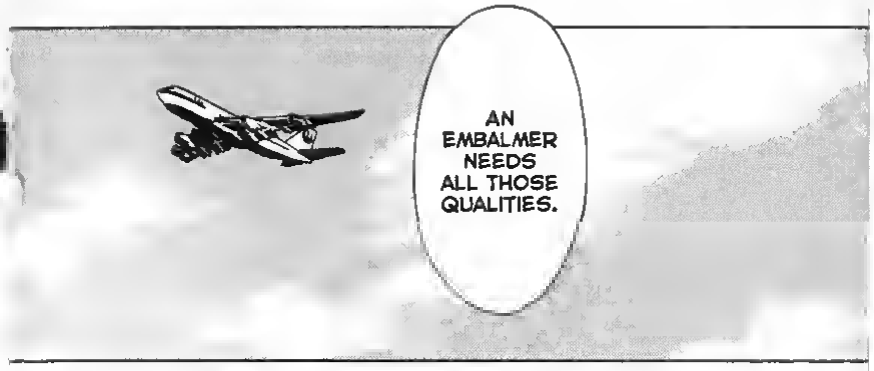
I DIDN'T WANT TO UNDERSTAND THAT OF THE THREE OF US, MY FATHER WAS THE ONE WHO SACRIFICED THE MOST.

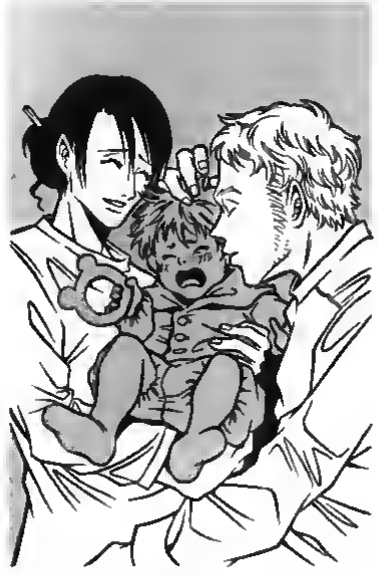
I WAS SUCH A CHILD.

I DIDN'T WANT TO BELIEVE THAT MY FATHER LOVED US.

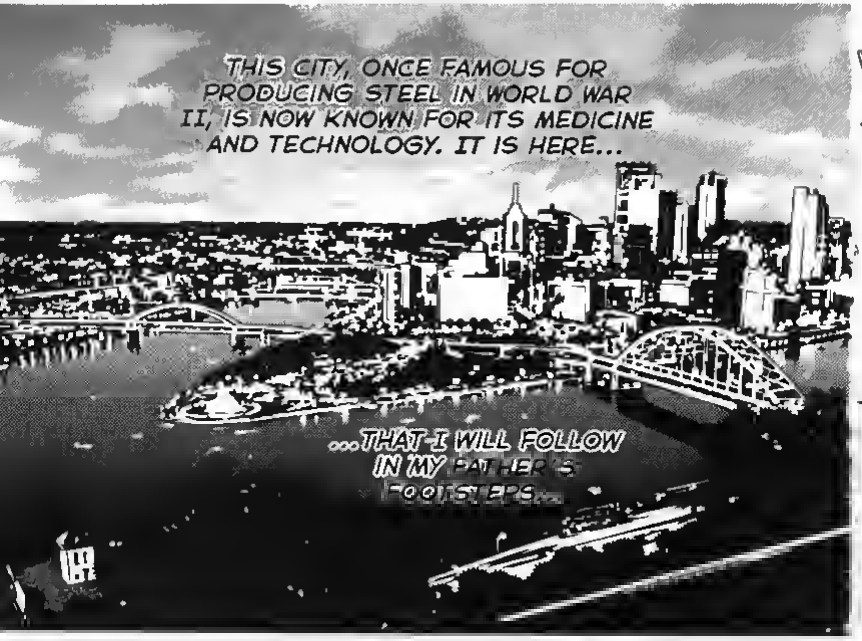
NO WAY! DOES IT HAVE TO DO WITH MEDICAL SCHOOL?
YEAH. HE'S GOING TO STUDY, UM... SOMETHING OR OTHER.
IS IT TRUE?! SHINJYUROU'S GOING TO AMERICA?







Embalming 12-14
Shinjyurou
End


THIS CITY, ONCE FAMOUS FOR PRODUCING STEEL IN WORLD WAR II, IS NOW KNOWN FOR ITS MEDICINE AND TECHNOLOGY. IT IS HERE...
...THAT I WILL FOLLOW IN MY FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.

Embalming 15
The Embalmer, Part 1

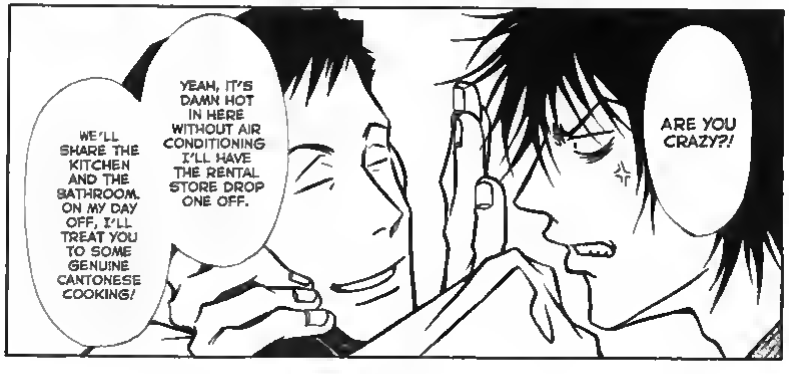
Established 1882
PITTSBURGH COLLEGE of MORTUARY SCIENCE
5908 Baum Boulevard
....AT THE PITTSBURGH COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE.

HAHAHA
AS LONG AS YOU REMEMBER THAT, YOU'LL GET BY IN PITTSBURG!
A WORD OF WARNING, THOUGH, DON'T GO TO SAM'S SHOP ON EAST CENTER AVENUE FOR JAPANESE. THEIR MEAT'S ALWAYS OLD!
FROM JAPAN, YOU SAY? THAT'S GREAT! I LOVE JAPANESE FOOD. SOY SAUCE AND TOFU ARE ABSOLUTELY DELISH!
ENJOY YOUR TRIP!
THIS WEEKEND I'M HAVING A BARBEQUE WITH FRIENDS. YOU SHOULD COME!
TH-THANK YOU.
WHAT YOU NEED TO SPEAK ENGLISH IS NOT A GIFT FOR LANGUAGES, BUT THE ABILITY TO SPEAK AT A VERY RAPID PACE.
I'm so nervous.

NO... I WANT TO BECOME A BETTER EMBALMER THAN MY FATHER.
LIKE MY LATE FATHER I WANT TO—
HMM... OKAY. WILL YOU HAVE LUNCH WITH ME?
THAT'S IT FOR THE INTERVIEW? THAT WAS
They're homemade
Benoît?!

99.9% OF STUDENTS WHO GRADUATE FROM THIS SCHOOL RECEIVE AN EMBALMING LICENSE.
YOU LOOK RELIEVED. DON'T BE. A LOT OF STUDENTS DROP OR FLUNK OUT.
Intense...
YES.
SHINJYUROU MAMIYA? WELCOME! I'M SUSAN GARRET, THE DEAN.
HAVE YOU FOUND SOMEWHERE TO LIVE YET?
ONE OUT OF EVERY THREE STUDENTS DON'T EVEN COMPLETE THEIR FIRST YEAR.
ONLY THOSE WHO MAKE IT THROUGH ALL THE TESTS CAN EXPECT TO GRADUATE.
IT'S HARD FOR FOREIGNERS. WE JUST HAD ONE DROP DURING THE SPRING SEMESTER.
WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO COME HERE?

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS? IT'LL CUT YOUR RENT IN HALF!


ARE YOU CRAZY?!
YEAH, IT'S DAMN HOT IN HERE WITHOUT AIR CONDITIONING I'LL HAVE THE RENTAL STORE DROP ONE OFF.
WE'LL SHARE THE KITCHEN AND THE BATHROOM. ON MY DAY OFF, I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOME GENUINE CANTONESE COOKING!

I'M CHANSDO LEE. CHAN FOR SHORT. NICE TO MEET YA.
BURP!
HEY, YOU! JAPANESE GUY WITH THE BLOODY MOUTH!
ONLY A JAPANESE GUY WOULD BE TOO POLITE TO SAY NO TO MISS SUSAN'S SWEET-ENOUGH-TO-DESTROY-YOUR-TASTE-BUDS STRAWBERRY DOUGHNUTS.
HOW'D YOU KNOW I WAS JAPANESE?

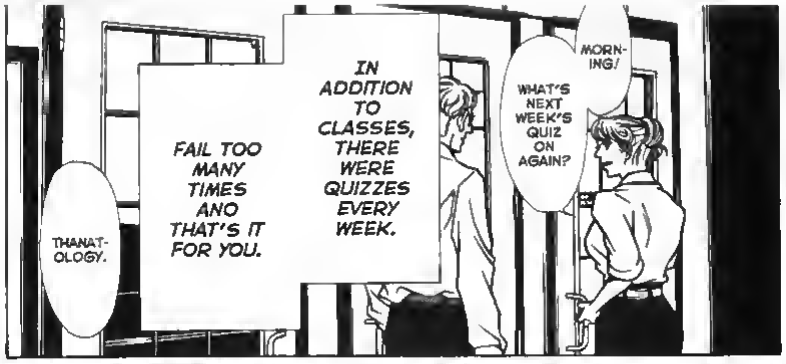
A STUDIO APARTMENT ON CENTER AVENUE, BUT...
Whoa...
THAT'S PERFECT! HAVE I GOT A GREAT DEAL FOR YOU!
OH? ME TOO.
SO DO YOU HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?
I'M SHINJYUROU MAMIYA. I'M STARTING THIS FALL SEMESTER.

MY DAYS AT THE COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE BEGAN AT 8:30 AND RAN IN 90 MINUTE SESSIONS UNTIL 3 O'CLOCK.
THERE WERE SPRING AND FALL SEMESTERS.
OKAY!
AND THERE WAS A DRESS CODE.
IF YOU CAN'T PRESENT YOURSELF PROPERLY NOW, YOU'LL NEVER GET IT LATER
THE BEREAVED FAMILY READS YOUR SINCERITY FROM YOUR CLOTHING, AS WELL AS YOUR MANNER.
OF COURSE, THE LESSONS WERE IN ENGLISH... AND AT A RAPID PACE!
DANNY, I TOLD YOU IF YOU WORE JEANS AGAIN, YOU'D BE MARKED DOWN.

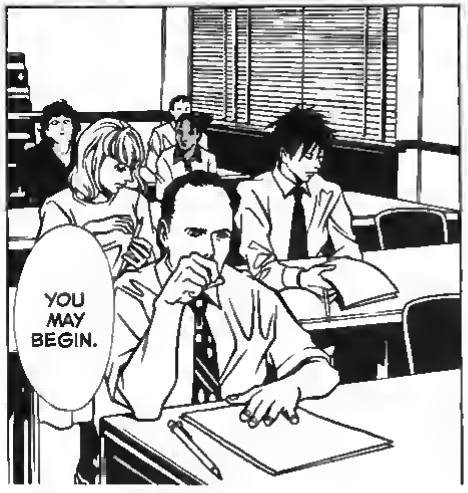
IT WAS HARDEST IN THE BEGINNING...

HWUH? SHIN, YOU STILL UP?
SHIT. THIS LANGUAGE IS TOTALLY HANDICAPPING ME.

OH, MAN! TALK SLOWER! PLEASE, I'M BEGGING YOU!
THE CHALKBOARDS WERE RARELY USED, SO YOU HAD TO TAKE LOTS OF NOTES.
THE FRIGHTENING THING WAS THAT THERE WERE HARDLY ANY TEXTBOOKS.
...THERE WAS ALSO PSYCHOLOGY, JURISPRUDENCE, RELIGIOUS STUDIES, ACCOUNTING AND PRODUCTION SCHEDULING.
IN ADDITION TO ANATOMY, PATHOLOGY, BACTERIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, RESTORATIVE ARTS AND EMBALMING...
I feel like I'm decoding the Rosetta Stone!
MY ALL IMPORTANT NOTES... ALMOST ILLEGIBLE...
APPARENTLY, PUBLISHING CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE ADVANCEMENTS IN THE FIELD.


MORN-ING!
WHAT'S NEXT WEEK'S QUIZ ON AGAIN?
IN ADDITION TO CLASSES, THERE WERE QUIZZES EVERY WEEK.
FAIL TOO MANY TIMES ANO THAT'S IT FOR YOU.
THANAT-OLOGY.

Uh!
MR. JOHNSON, I HAVE A QUESTION!
Damn.
THANK YOU, SHEILA. THIS REALLY HELPS.
IT'S FINE. NOTES ARE NO BIG DEAL.
SO, UM.. NEXT WEEK MAYBE WE CAN-



IT IS BUT TO KNOW ONE'S OWN WEAKNESSES AND TO HAVE HOPE.

IT FEELS LIKE IT'S PAYBACK FOR NOT TRYING TO COMMUNICATE WITH MY FATHER.
I'M SUFFERING NOW BECAUSE I DON'T SPEAK VERY GOOD ENGLISH.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
ONE

WAS YOUR FATHER FLUENT IN JAPANESE?
YEAH.
THEN YOU WERE LOVED, WEREN'T YOU?

THIS ALWAYS HELPED ME WHEN I WAS FED UP WITH MY STUDIES. YOU CAN HAVE IT.

I'VE JUST REALIZED A LOT OF THINGS SINCE COMING HERE.
I NEVER TRIED TO UNDERSTAND MY FATHER'S WORK.
WHAT'S WRONG? IS MR. JOHNSON LAYING ON THE HOMEWORK AGAIN?
OR IS IT SOMETHING ELSE?
MS. SUSAN?

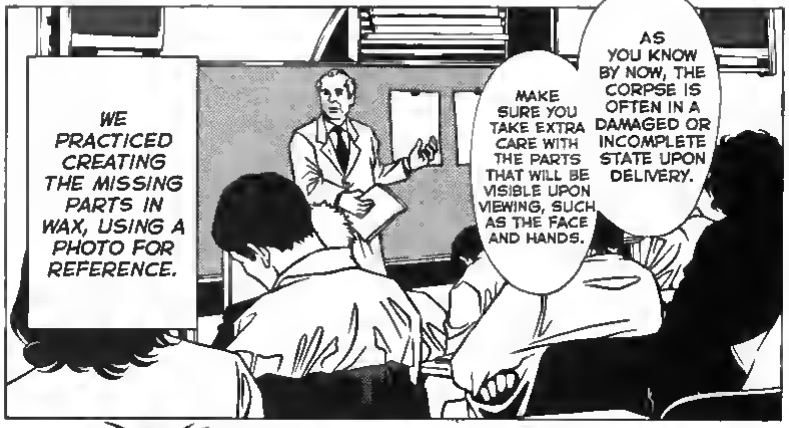
Sweet!
Sigh...
PRETTY SOON, EVERYTHING WILL BE HANDS-ON.
Probably
Should we eat 'em?
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE WORLD TO ME.
HEY, SHIN...

IT COULDN'T BE THE QUESTIONS FOR THE STATE EXAM...
STRAIGHT FROM THE PRINCIPAL.
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT.

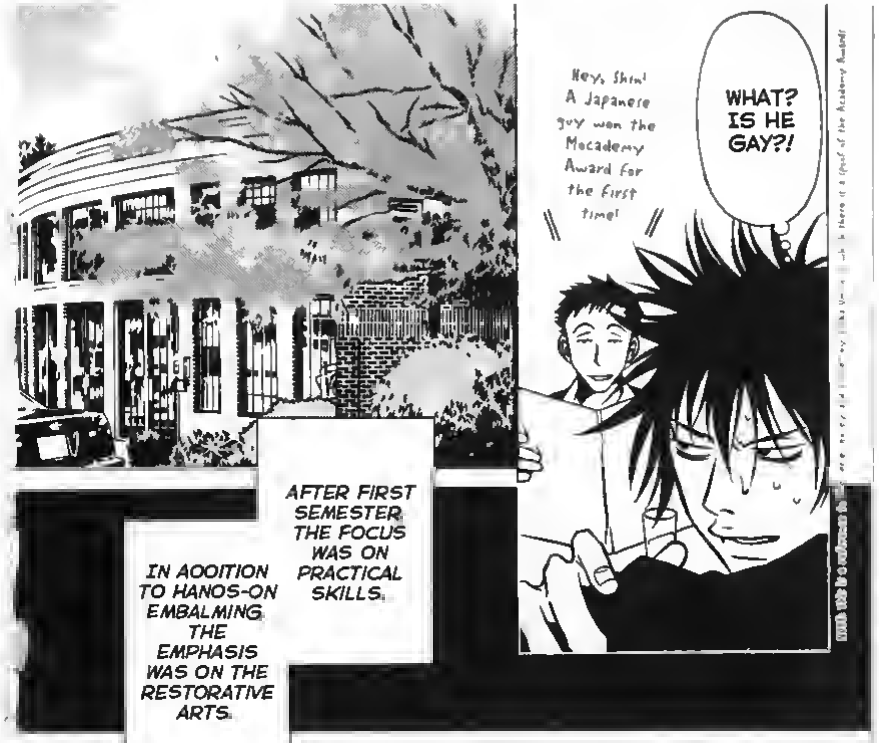
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EMBALM SOMEONE YOU LOVE?
IT'LL BE SECOND SEMESTER AFTER THE BREAK.
HANDS-ON TRAINING WILL BEGIN.

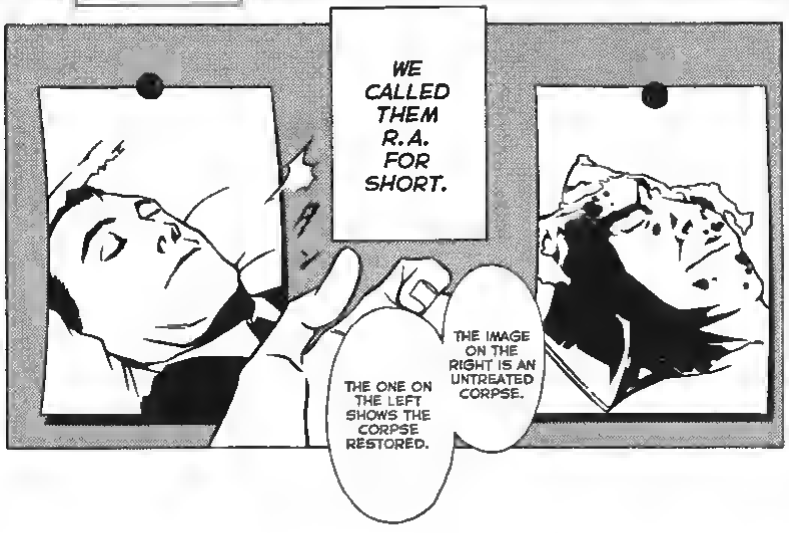
THANK YOU!
IT WAS DELICIOUS!
MMMM
A/.
CLACK
THAT'S NOT EVEN ON OUR MENU.
JUST KIDDING, REALLY! THE SUSHI'S GREAT! THAT DRAGON ROLL WAS AWESOME!
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
HMM?
WHOA! SHE'S HOT!
Pretty crappy taste in food though
IS THIS SOME KIND OF ROPE MASQUERADING AS UDON?!
IT'S THE SAME DAMN BROTH!
And it doesn't taste like ramen OR udon!
WELL, I GUESS THAT'S WHAT WE GET EATING AT A KOREAN-RUN JAPANESE RESTAURANT IN AMERICA.
WELL I CAN'T SAY THE RAMEN IS MUCH BETTER.
Want some?
Ugh
IT'S GOT NO FLAVOR!
YOU KEEP TALKING AND I'LL SERVE YOU SOME SEONDAEGGI!
Seondaeggi
YOU COULD HAVE MENTIONED THAT EARLIER.
THE NAME, SUSHI, TOO, FOOLED ME.
THE ONLY THING GOOD HERE IS THE BIBIM-BAP.

NOTE Bibimbap is a popular Korean dish: a bowl of warm rice topped with sautéed and seasoned vegetables, beef and a fried egg


WE PRACTICED CREATING THE MISSING PARTS IN WAX, USING A PHOTO FOR REFERENCE.
AS YOU KNOW BY NOW, THE CORPSE IS OFTEN IN A DAMAGED OR INCOMPLETE STATE UPON DELIVERY.
MAKE SURE YOU TAKE EXTRA CARE WITH THE PARTS THAT WILL BE VISIBLE UPON VIEWING, SUCH AS THE FACE AND HANDS.

I FEEL LIKE I'M AT ART SCHOOL... OR MADAME TUSSAUD'S.
The top of the ears should be level with the eyebrows and
AND WHO IS THIS, CHAN?


Hey, Shin! A Japanese guy won the Macademy Award for the first time!
WHAT? IS HE GAY?!
IN ADDITION TO HANDS-ON EMBALMING THE EMPHASIS WAS ON THE RESTORATIVE ARTS.
AFTER FIRST SEMESTER THE FOCUS WAS ON PRACTICAL SKILLS.


WE CALLED THEM R.A. FOR SHORT.
THE ONE ON THE LEFT SHOWS THE CORPSE RESTORED.
THE IMAGE ON THE RIGHT IS AN UNTREATED CORPSE.

I COULD NEVER GET THE HANG OF ENGLISH SLANG.
"Y'ALL"?! IS THAT A PLURAL FORM OF "YOU"?
Why is it "yous"?
OKAY! YOU GET AN A.
VIVIEN LEIGH, EH? A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE WAS SURE A GOOD ONE, WASN'T IT?
TH-THANKS.
Y'ALL...
...FOR A GOOO EXAMPLE, LOOK AT THIS ONE!

!
I TOLO YOU TO USE A FAMOUS PERSON FOR THE MODEL SO IT'D BE EASY TO GRADE.
YOU DON'T KNOW HIM? HE'S AN ACTION ACTOR FROM HONG KONG.
THIS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE WORLD TO ME.
Wow...
I'M CONTINUALLY AMAZED AT HOW SKILLED THE JAPANESE ARE WITH THEIR HANDS
THAT'S THE GUY FROM THAT PICTURE.

OH, DEAR.
SO... HOW ARE YOUR CLASSES GOING?
And so much sugar in her coffee! Ugh!
IF THIS KEEPS UP, I MAY VERY WELL DEVELOP DIABETES BEFORE I GRADUATE.
I JUST CAN'T KEEP UP WITH THE LECTURES.
I REALLY NEED TO HUNT DOWN SOME BOOKS ON EMBALMING.
I SEE. WELL, THERE ARE SOME, BUT...
OH, I'M FINE.
YOU HAVEN'T HAD LUNCH YET, HAVE YOU?
ACK! IT'S MS. DONUTS!
I HAD TO DO SOMETHING... OR ELSE.
I'M SCRAPING BY ON MY TESTS, BUT I'M GETTING REALLY NERVOUS ABOUT THE GRADUATE EXAM. IT DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
SHINJYUROU MAMIYA!
HOW ABOUT JOINING ME FOR LUNCH?

...I'M MEMORIZING THEM.
DON'T CRACK UP ON ME.
YEP.
ALL OF THESE?!
YEP.
YOU INSANE?
YEP.

...THEY'RE EXPENSIVE. AND AWFULLY HEAVY.
HOW MUCH WERE THOSE?
DON'T ASK. I REALLY CAN'T AFFORD THEM.
Whoa
IT'S LIKE THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA MADE OF BOOKS!
BY THE TIME YOU'RE DONE READING ALL OF THEM, YOU'LL BE GRADUATING.
I'M NOT READING THEM...

Whoa!
HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!

SHIN, YOU AND I ARE IN THE SAME GROUP FOR HANDS-ON TOMORROW, RIGHT?
BETTER PRAY THAT WE DON'T GET AN AUTOPSY CORPSE.
YEAH, YEAH. I'M GOING BACK ACROSS THE BORDER.
FROM NOW ON THIS IS MY SPACE! DON'T COME IN!
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EMBALM SOMEONE YOU LOVE?

LET'S SEE... SHINJYUROU MAMIYA AND CHANSOO LEE?
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M TINA WILDBERRY, YOUR SUPERVISOR.
AH!
FROM THE...
!

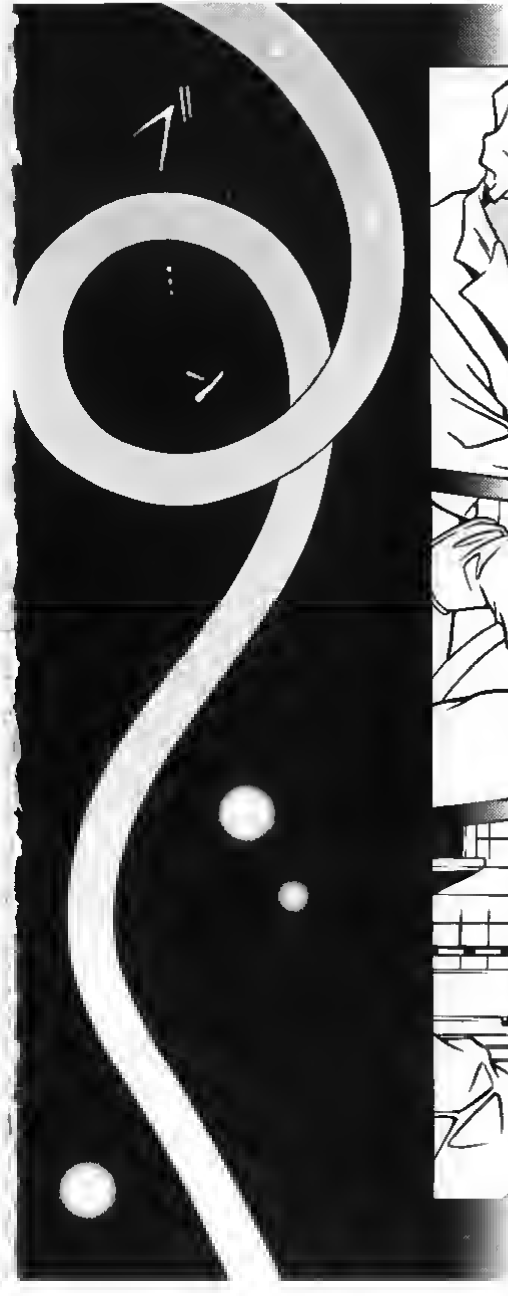
I FEEL LIKE I'M ONE STEP CLOSER TO MY FATHER, BUT I STILL DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER TO THAT QUESTION.

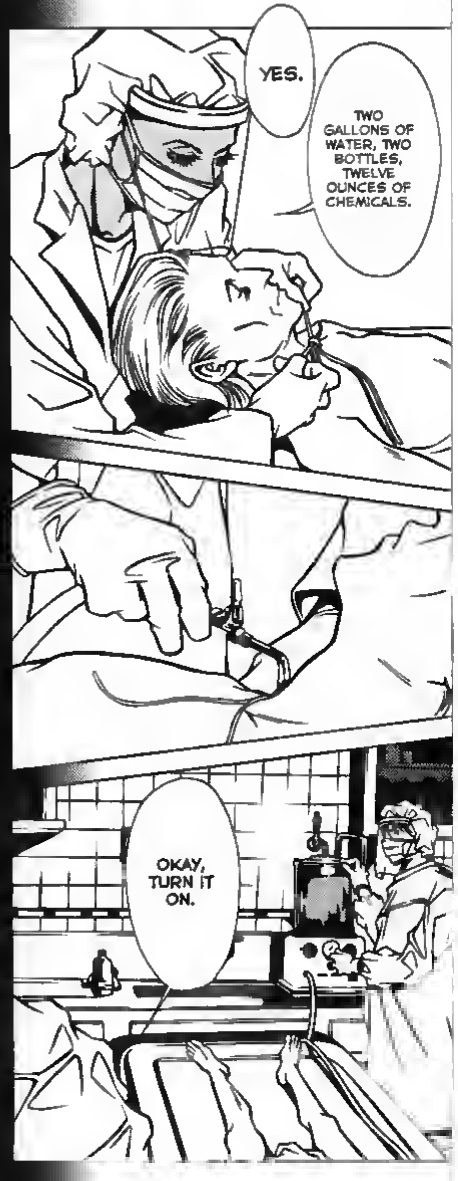
WHEN YOU'RE DONE, CLOSE HER EYES WITH EYE CAPS.
SHIN, BE CAREFUL SHAVING HER FACE. THE SKIN'S BECOME FRAGILE.
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU PLACE HER ON THE TABLE. IF SHE'S CROOKED, SHE'LL BE EMBALMED CROOKED.
WE WON'T USE THE INJECTOR FOR THE MOUTH THIS TIME. WE'LL SEW IT. YOU TRY, CHAN.
IF THERE'S RIGOR MORTIS, YOU'LL NEED TO SOFTEN HER UP WITH ELASTICITY EXERCISES.
NOTE: Elasticity exercises involve moving the various appendages and stretching
SHIN...
THIS WAS MY FATHER'S WORK.
YES.
YOU MIX THE EMBALMING FLUIDS.
CANCER PATIENTS' VEINS ARE FRAGILE, SO I'M GOING TO EXPOSE THEM.

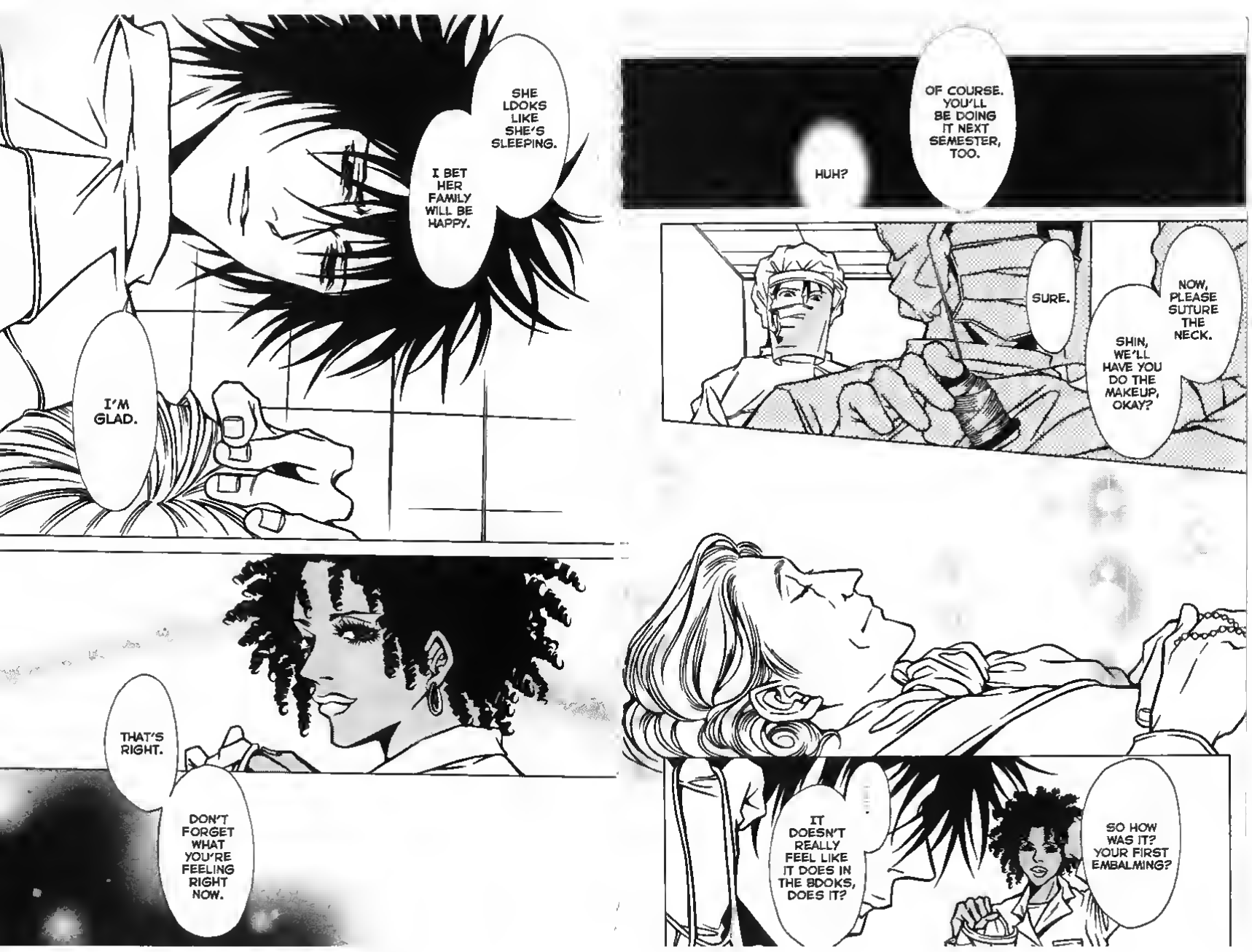
YOU GUYS ARE WAY TOO SCRAWNY!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO BE ABLE TO PICK UP A BODY?
THE DECEASED WAS 53 YEARS OLD. FEMALE. THE BODY WAS DONATED TO A MEDICAL SCHOOL FOR RESEARCH.
CAUSE OF DEATH WAS HEMORRHAGING DUE TO RECTAL CANCER.

YES.
THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT WAYS TO MIX THE EMBALMING FLUIDS, YOU KNOW.
LOOK AT THE NAILS AND EARS TO CHECK THE FLUID'S PENETRATION.
PUT YOUR HEART INTO THE MASSAGE, OKAY?

I'VE HEARD THAT IF YOU SCREW UP AS A PROFESSIONAL, THE LITIGATION COULD BE IN THE MILLIONS!
YOU'RE MAKING US DO ALL THE HARD STUFF, AREN'T YOU?
IF YOU'VE GOT TIME TO BLAB, DO THE SUTURE.




YES.
TWO GALLONS OF WATER, TWO BOTTLES, TWELVE OUNCES OF CHEMICALS.
OKAY, TURN IT ON.


SHE LOOKS LIKE SHE'S SLEEPING.
I BET HER FAMILY WILL BE HAPPY.
I'M GLAD.
THAT'S RIGHT.
DON'T FORGET WHAT YOU'RE FEELING RIGHT NOW.
HUH?
OF COURSE. YOU'LL BE DOING IT NEXT SEMESTER, TOO.
SURE.
SHIN, WE'LL HAVE YOU DO THE MAKEUP, OKAY?
NOW, PLEASE SUTURE THE NECK.
IT DOESN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE IT DOES IN THE BOOKS, DOES IT?
SO HOW WAS IT? YOUR FIRST EMBALMING?

Embalming 16
The Embalmer, Part 2

Embalming 17
The Embalmer, Part 3

YO, SHIN.
PERFECT TIMING! I COULD USE YOUR HELP!
YOU'RE THE ONE RUNNING THIS SCAM?!
JUST PAINT ON SOME KANJI. DOESN'T MATTER WHAT IT SAYS.
HEY, SHIN! IS IT TRUE THAT IN JAPAN, THEY EAT ASHES DURING THE FUNERAL?
NO. IT'S CALLED SHOUKOU. IT'S A KIND OF INCENSE.
The Boar Meat
WE DON'T EAT IT. WE TAKE A PINCH AND PUT IT IN THE INCENSE BURNER AND...
Ch. 2 Big Buyer of Pork
IT'S COOL, HUH? I BOUGHT IT FROM CHAN.
HEY, IS THIS SOME SUDDEN NEW TREND?

BY THE THIRD SEMESTER, THE CLASS HAD BECOME MUCH SMALLER, YET I SOMEHOW MANAGED TO KEEP UP.
COLLEGE of MORTUARY SCIENCE
TO RECEIVE ENOUGH CREDIT FOR HANDS-ON WORK, YOU HAD TO EMBALM ABOUT 25 CORPSES A MONTH.
I'LL GO!
THERE'S BEEN A REQUEST FROM THE ARMY'S AUTOPSY DEPARTMENT. WOULD SOMEONE--
I WANTED TO PARTICIPATE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE.
DO YOUR BEST. THE CORPSE HAS LOST BOTH OF HIS LEGS.
NO TWO CORPSES ARE THE SAME.

WHAT? HUH?
WELL, I'M HEADING HOME. YOU TAKE YOUR TIME.
HMM...
SOUNDS LIKE THERE'S A STORY BEHIND THAT.
WON'T YOU HAVE TEA WITH ME? IT'S COCONUT DONUTS DAY!

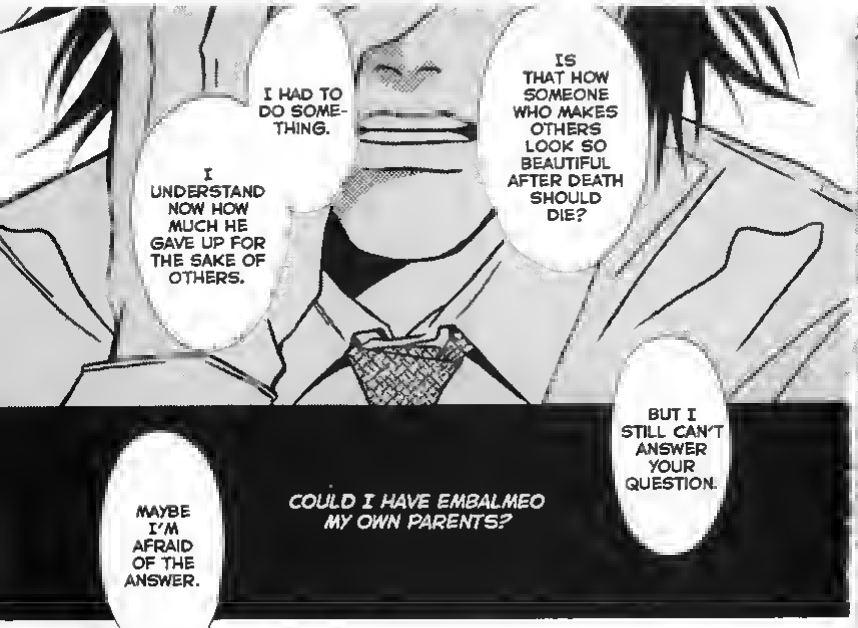
URGH...
It's just a job Here, take a brush
HEY, DO YOU WANT TO PAY THE RENT AND EXPENSES ALL BY YOURSELF?

I WANTED TO GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL AS MY DAD.
SHIN, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO AFTER YOU GRADUATE?
GET AN EMBALMING LICENSE IN CALIFORNIA AND INTERN THERE.
I'D HAVE TO BE AN AMERICAN CITIZEN TO GET ONE HERE IN PENNSYLVANIA.
WOULDN'T IT HAVE BEEN EASIER TO GO TO A MORTUARY COLLEGE IN CALIFORNIA TO BEGIN WITH?
They say that clothes are a lot cheaper on the West Coast! Goth girls! Bikini babes.
NO.

.....
SORRY.
WATCH YOUR FINGERS! THAT WAS A ROUGH MASSAGE.
THE FACE COULD BLOAT. BE CAREFUL!
THE LAST TIME I HAD TO WARN YOU ABOUT THAT WAS WITH A CORPSE ABOUT THE SAME AGE, WASN'T IT?
I HOPE THIS IS JUST ME, BUT...
I KNOW.
...YOU CAN'T LET PERSONAL FEELINGS GET IN THE WAY.

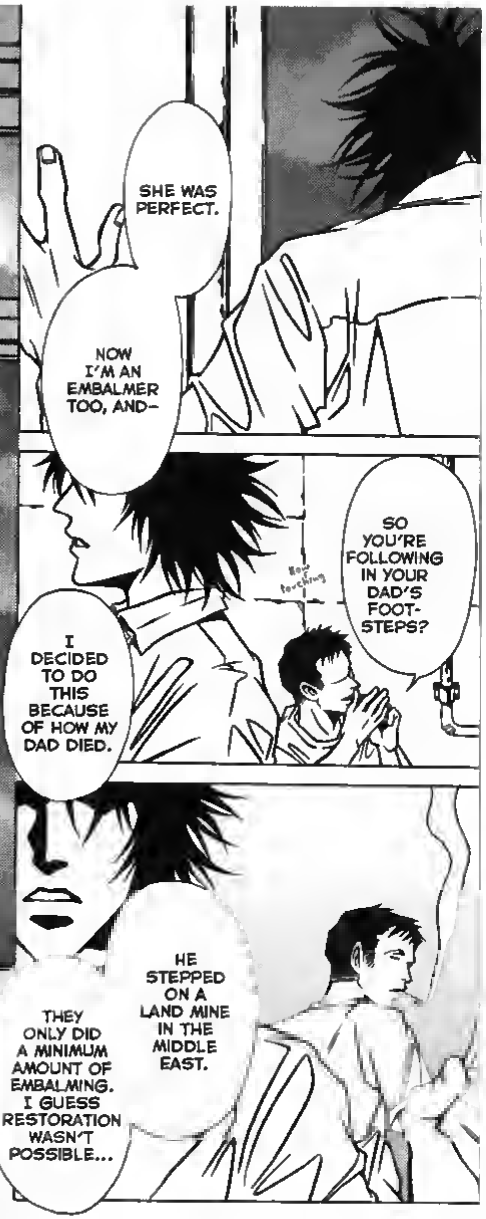
FORTY-YEAR-OLD FEMALE...
BE CAREFUL BECAUSE IT'LL AFFECT THE END RESULT.
IF YOU DON'T, THERE'LL BE PRESSURE WHEN YOU PUT THE TUBE IN. THE EMBALMING FLUID WON'T FLOW WELL.
EDDIE, GET THE FAT AROUND THE VEIN. THAT'S RIGHT... GOOD.
SHIN!

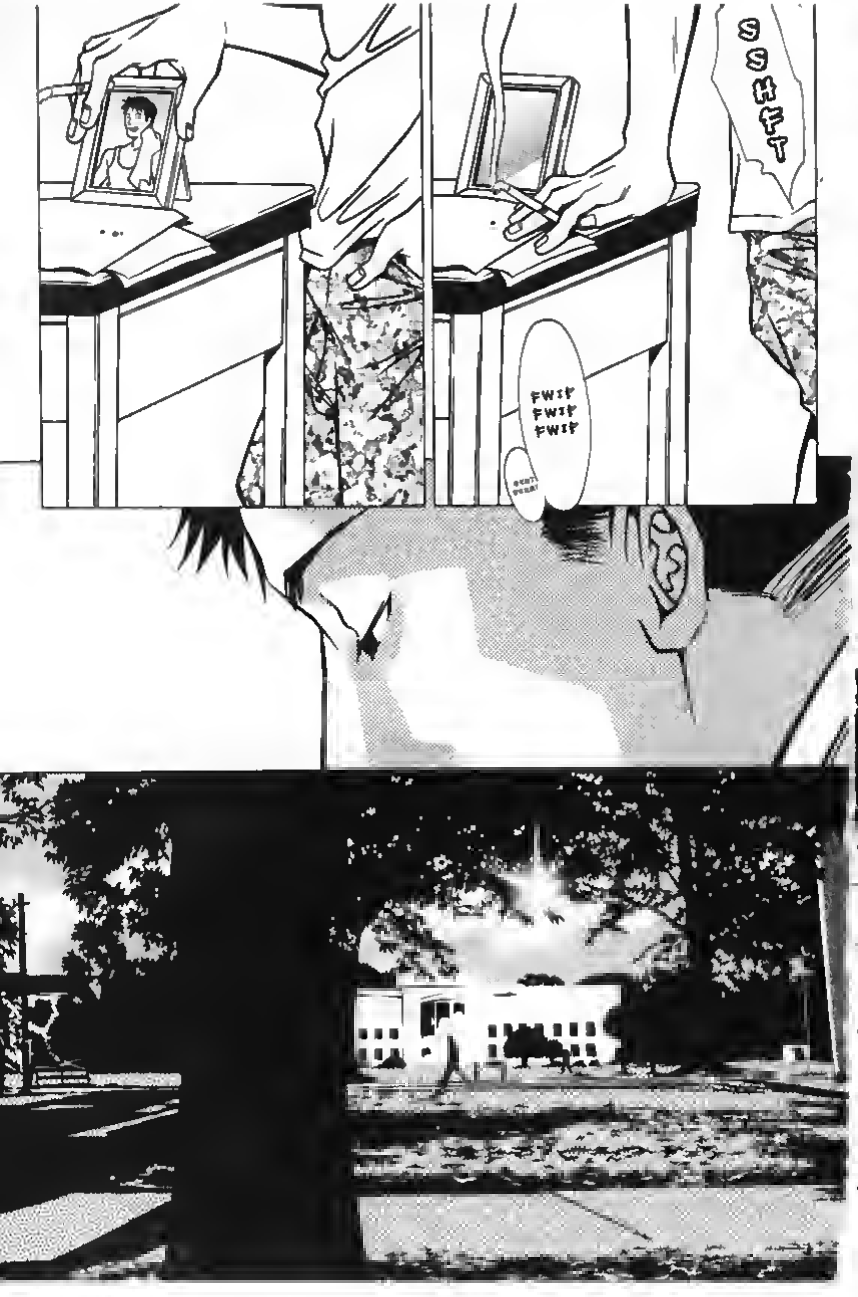
OKAY, NOW I KNOW SOMETHING'S WRONG.
WHATEVER. I'M GOING TO BED.
HMM... GOING TO SLEEP WITHOUT CRACKING EVEN A SINGLE BOOK?
YOU ASKED ME ONCE IF I COULD EMBALM SOMEONE I LOVED...
HIS WIFE. HE EMBALMED MY MOTHER RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME.
MY DAD WAS ABLE TO DO IT.
YOU CAN HAVE THAT SALMON BAGEL OVER THERE.
I already ate some of it
THAT'S OKAY.
WHAT'S THAT?
AMERICAN EX
752
偽造
WHAT THE HELL, CHAN? YOU TRYING TO GET ME ARRESTED NOW?!
AN AMERICAN EXPRESS CARD. DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT. PRETTY WELL DONE, ISN'T IT?
Sigh...
HEY, DUDE.
IS HE FOR REAL?
IT'S SO THAT THE DECEASED WILL BE WEALTHY IN THE AFTERLIFE.
YOU OFFER THINGS MADE OF PAPER TO YOUR ANCESTORS. LIKE HOUSES, CARS AND MONEY!
NO, NO. THIS IS FOR THE OBON FESTIVAL! DON'T THEY HAVE IT IN JAPAN?


I UNDERSTAND NOW HOW MUCH HE GAVE UP FOR THE SAKE OF OTHERS.
I HAD TO DO SOME-THING.
IS THAT HOW SOMEONE WHO MAKES OTHERS LOOK SO BEAUTIFUL AFTER DEATH SHOULD DIE?
BUT I STILL CAN'T ANSWER YOUR QUESTION.
COULD I HAVE EMBALMED MY OWN PARENTS?
MAYBE I'M AFRAID OF THE ANSWER.

I, UH... I'M NOT SURE I WANT TO BE.
ONE OF THESE DAYS, I'LL HAVE TO TELL YOU WHY...
Heh heh...
YOU'RE A COWARD.
WHICH MAKES YOU QUITE A BIT LIKE ME.

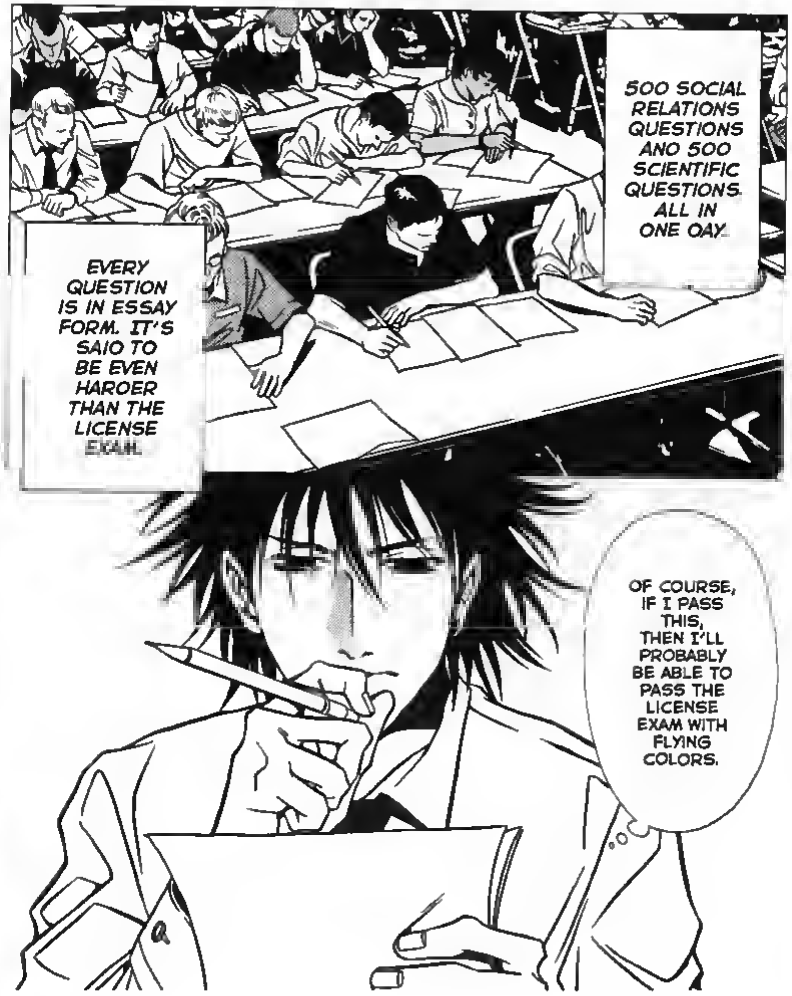
HALF HIS FACE WAS MISSING.

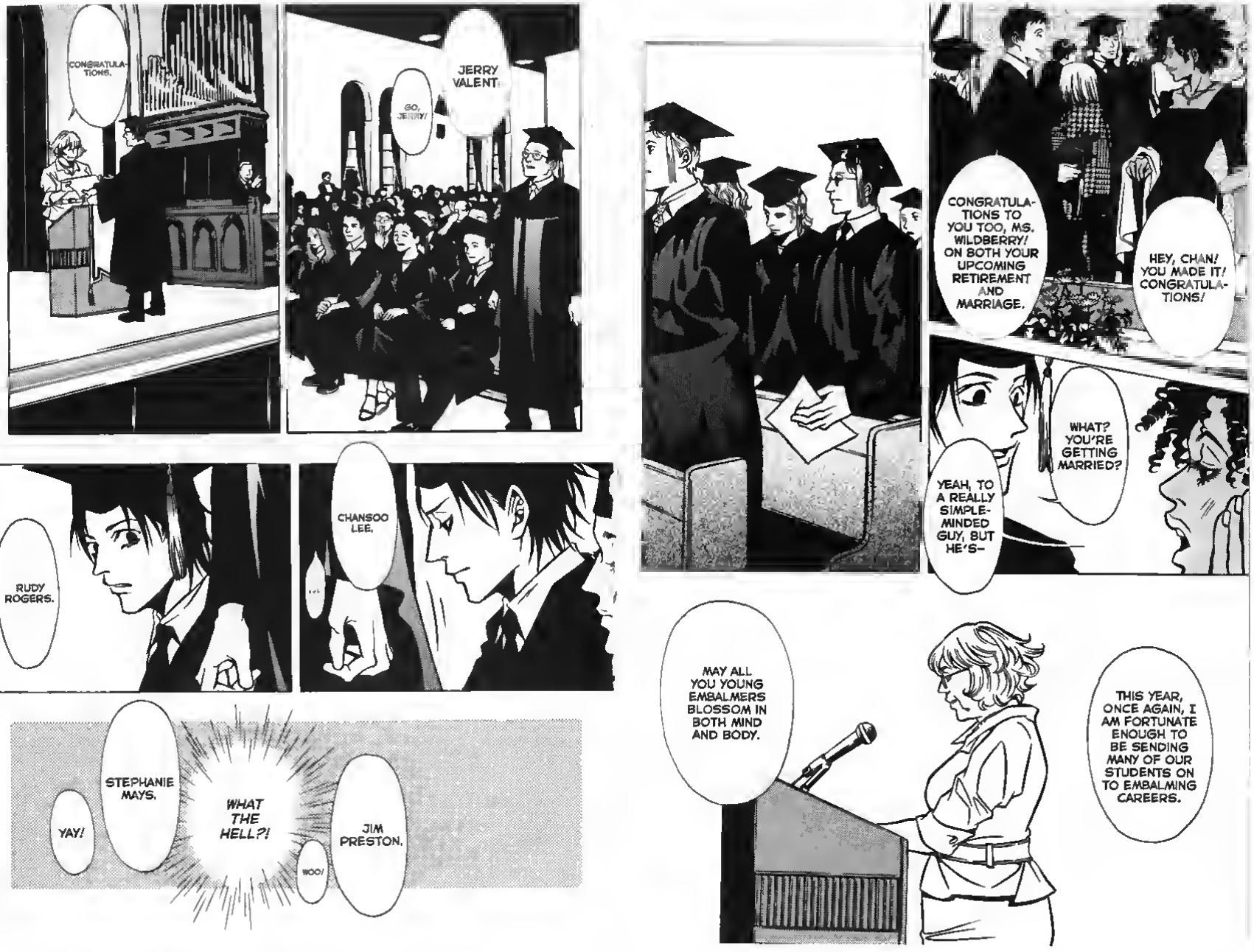

SHE WAS PERFECT.
NOW I'M AN EMBALMER TOO, AND-
Hey, touching
SO YOU'RE FOLLOWING IN YOUR DAD'S FOOT-STEPS?
I DECIDED TO DO THIS BECAUSE OF HOW MY DAD DIED.
HE STEPPED ON A LAND MINE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.
THEY ONLY DID A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF EMBALMING. I GUESS RESTORATION WASN'T POSSIBLE...


SSHFT
FWIP FWIP FWIP

HA HA HA! JUST KIDDING!
HEY, WHY DON'T WE JUST GIVE UP ON EMBALMING AND OPEN A RANCH OUT WEST?
HEY, WEREN'T YOU GOING TO SLEEP?
ARE YOU CRAZY?! GRADUATION'S RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER!
I'M GOING TO STUDY!

I AM ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR YOU.
NO MATTER WHAT THE BATTLEFIELD,
GO FORTH WITHOUT FEAR.

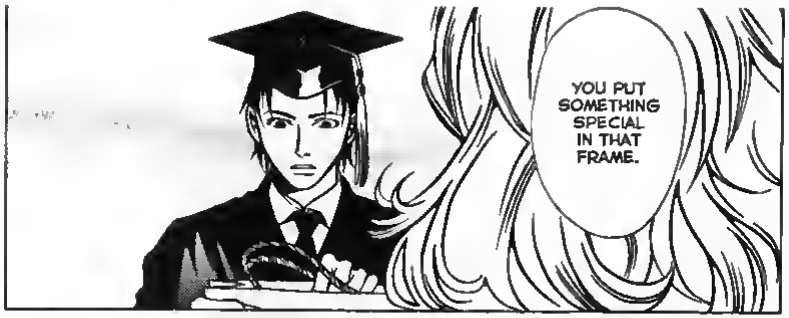

500 SOCIAL RELATIONS QUESTIONS AND 500 SCIENTIFIC QUESTIONS. ALL IN ONE DAY.
EVERY QUESTION IS IN ESSAY FORM. IT'S SAID TO BE EVEN HARDER THAN THE LICENSE EXAM.
OF COURSE, IF I PASS THIS, THEN I'LL PROBABLY BE ABLE TO PASS THE LICENSE EXAM WITH FLYING COLORS.


CONGRATULATIONS.
JERRY VALENT.
GO, JERRY!
RUDY ROGERS.
CHANSOO LEE.
...
STEPHANIE MAYS.
YAY!
WHAT THE HELL?!
WOO!
JIM PRESTON.
CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU TOO, MS. WILDBERRY! ON BOTH YOUR UPCOMING RETIREMENT AND MARRIAGE.
HEY, CHAN! YOU MADE IT! CONGRATULATIONS!
WHAT? YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?
YEAH, TO A REALLY SIMPLE-MINDED GUY, BUT HE'S–
MAY ALL YOU YOUNG EMBALMERS BLOSSOM IN BOTH MIND AND BODY.
THIS YEAR, ONCE AGAIN, I AM FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE SENDING MANY OF OUR STUDENTS ON TO EMBALMING CAREERS.

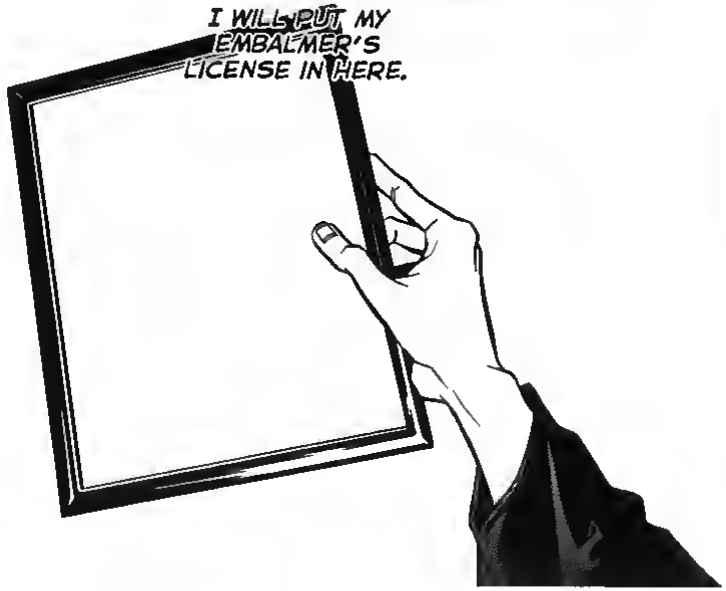
CONGRATULATIONS. HERE'S A SPECIAL LITTLE SOMETHING FROM ME.
YOU ARE THE FIRST FOREIGN STUDENT TO BE OUR VALEDICTORIAN.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I've got a bad feeling about this...
YOU WERE ALSO THE ONLY ONE WHO ATE MY DONUTS THE WHOLE YEAR!
Heh heh...
!

.....
ぽつん..
IN PARTICULAR, I'D LIKE TO COMMEMORATE SHINJYUROU MAMIYA.
THIS YEAR TWO FOREIGN STUDENTS OVERCAME MANY OBSTACLES TO MAKE IT HERE.
HE OVERCAME A HUGE LINGUISTIC HANDICAP AND HAD TO WORK HARDER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
HE DESERVES ALL OF OUR RESPECT.

SPORTS
EMBALMING 18


YOU PUT SOMETHING SPECIAL IN THAT FRAME.

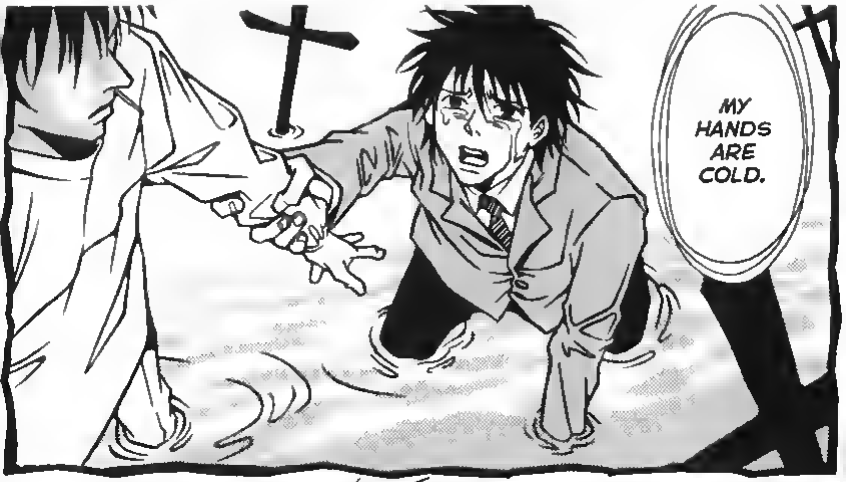
YES.
I WILL.


I WILL PUT MY EMBALMER'S LICENSE IN HERE.

DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EMBALM SOMEONE YOU LOVE?
NO. I LOVE THEM AND IT WOULD BE TOO PAINFUL TO SEE THEIR BODY REDUCED TO THAT.
YES. I LOVE THEM AND I WANT TO ENSURE THAT THEY LOOK GOOD THE LAST TIME PEOPLE SEE THEM.
THEY ARE NOT CORPSES.
THEY ARE PEOPLE.
WHICH...
...IS THE MORE LOVING ANSWER?

I'LL BE AT THE STATE CORONER'S OFFICE STARTING IN OCTOBER.
THAT'S OKAY.
IF THIS IS HOW IT'S GONNA BE THEN IT'S TIME FOR... OPERATION: YELLOW PAGES!
I SHOULD HAVE JUST LET IT GO.
IN PITTSBURGH? THEN YOU...
YES. THAT'S RIGHT, I GOT MY U.S. CITIZENSHIP! YOU GET ONE TOO, SHIN. THE PAY'S BETTER THAN IN JAPAN.
YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHEN YOU TURN TWENTY, YOU CAN CHOOSE YOUR CITIZENSHIP: AMERICAN OR JAPANESE.

TO OFFICIALLY BECOME AN EMBALMER, ONE NEEDS THE STATE LICENSE AND TO INTERN FOR A PERIOD OF TIME.
20
RE-JECTED
REJECTED.
NO OPEN POSITIONS.
EH?
SHIN?
STILL CAN'T FIND AN INTERNSHIP?
THEY SAID IT'D BE HARD FOR A FOREIGNER... BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE THIS HARD.



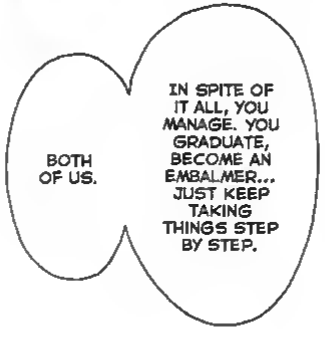
I CAN'T EVEN GET OVER IT AS A PROFESSIONAL, CAN I?

HOW FRAIL AN EMBALMER I AM...BUT FIRST AND FOREMOST I AM THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED.

IN CNINA, WE DO EMBALM, BUT IT'S NOT ACADEMIC LIKE IT IS IN TNE U.S. AND CANADA.
THE REALITY OF IT IS PRETTY CRUDE. DFTEN THEY JUST SOAK THE FLESN IN FORMALIN AND THAT'S IT.
DF COURSE, MY PARENTS DIDN'T EXACTLY APPROVE.
IF REAL EMBALMING TECHNIQUES ARE BROUGHT HERE, IT WILL REALLY IMPROVE THINGS!
AN AUTHENTIC EMBALMER IN CHINA? THAT'D BE AMAZING!
MY BROTHER WAS THE ONLY ONE ON MY SIDE.

.....
THIS IS REALLY STARTING TO BUG ME. IT'S LIKE I'M LOOKING AT THE OLD ME.
ONLY, I'M NOT SO DENSE AS TO TRY TO MAKE A PROFESSION OUT OF DEATH.
YOU KNOW... I WAS ORIGINALLY A BIO-TECH MAJOR AT PITTSBURG UNIVERSITY.
THEN, BEFORE I KNEW IT, I WAS MORE INTERESTED IN THIS.
"THINK IT OVER AGAIN, CHANSOO."
"EMBALMING? WE'RE NOT PUTTING YOU THROUGH COLLEGE FOR THAT!"

I MIGHT NOT BE THE BRIGHTEST BULB, BUT I CAN TAKE CARE OF OUR PARENTS.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, CHAN.
YOU GO FOR IT!
JUST LIKE THAT. A CAVE-IN AT THE COAL MINE HE WORKED IN.
I WAS ABLE TO MAKE HIS FUNERAL BECAUSE THEY'D EMBALMED HIM...
...BUT I REGRETTED IT.
WHY?
TEXACO
IT WAS AFTER I'D TRANSFERRED AND STARTED HANDS-ON TRAINING THAT MY LITTLE BROTHER DIED.
MY BROTHER HAD... DECAYED...
...BECAUSE AN INCOMPETENT EMBALMER HAD HANDLED IT.
YOU'RE A DISGRACE TO YOUR PARENTS!
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO DO?!
EVER SINCE THEN I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THAT QUESTION...
COULD I...



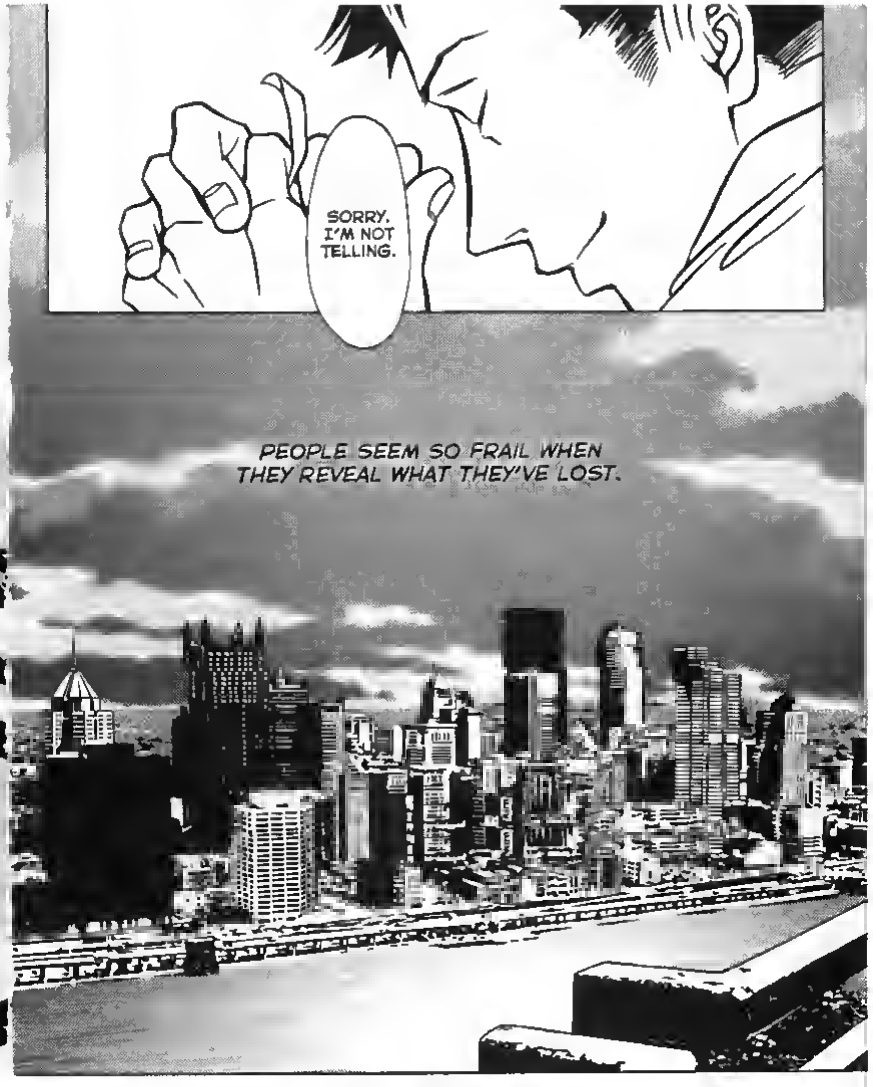
PEOPLE SEEM SO FRAIL WHEN THEY REVEAL WHAT THEY'VE LOST.

THAT'S CORRECT. YES.
I AM.
YES!
HELLO?
QUIT IT!
DON'T MAKE FUN OF IT! THEY COME TRUE!
WHA-?
OF COURSE!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

.....
MAN, DON'T BE SO UPTIGHT!
LIFE ISN'T JUST ABOUT THE BAD, YA KNOW?
BWAH!
SOME-THING'S INSIDE THIS.
NO MATTER HOW OFTEN WE MAY LOSE OUR WAY OR HOW LONG IT TAKES...
...AS LONG AS WE FOCUS ON OUR GOAL, EVENTUALLY WE'LL GET THERE.
"YOU WILL GET YOUR CHANCE. LUCKY ANIMAL: RABBIT."
WHAT'S IT SAY?
I TOLD YOU! THEY'RE FORTUNE COOKIES.
SHUT UP.
MAYBE IT MEANS YOU SHOULD WORK PART-TIME AS A PLAYBOY BUNNY?

WHAT ABOUT THE RABBIT?
Heh heh...
MAYBE IT'S A MORTUARY FOR PETS.
I HAVE TO PACK AND...
...GET A TICKET AND...
HUH?
HEY! WHAT DOES YOURS SAY, CHAN?
"Advice for making the heart lighter: confess a secret to a good friend."

CLICK
Occupatio
Receipt of Body
Embalming Report
Case name and numb
Preliminary information
SEE. YOUR FORTUNE CAME TRUE.
HMM?
IT'S WITH AN ASIAN FUNERAL COMPANY IN SAN FRANCISCO!
I GOT IT! I GOT AN INTERN-SHIP!



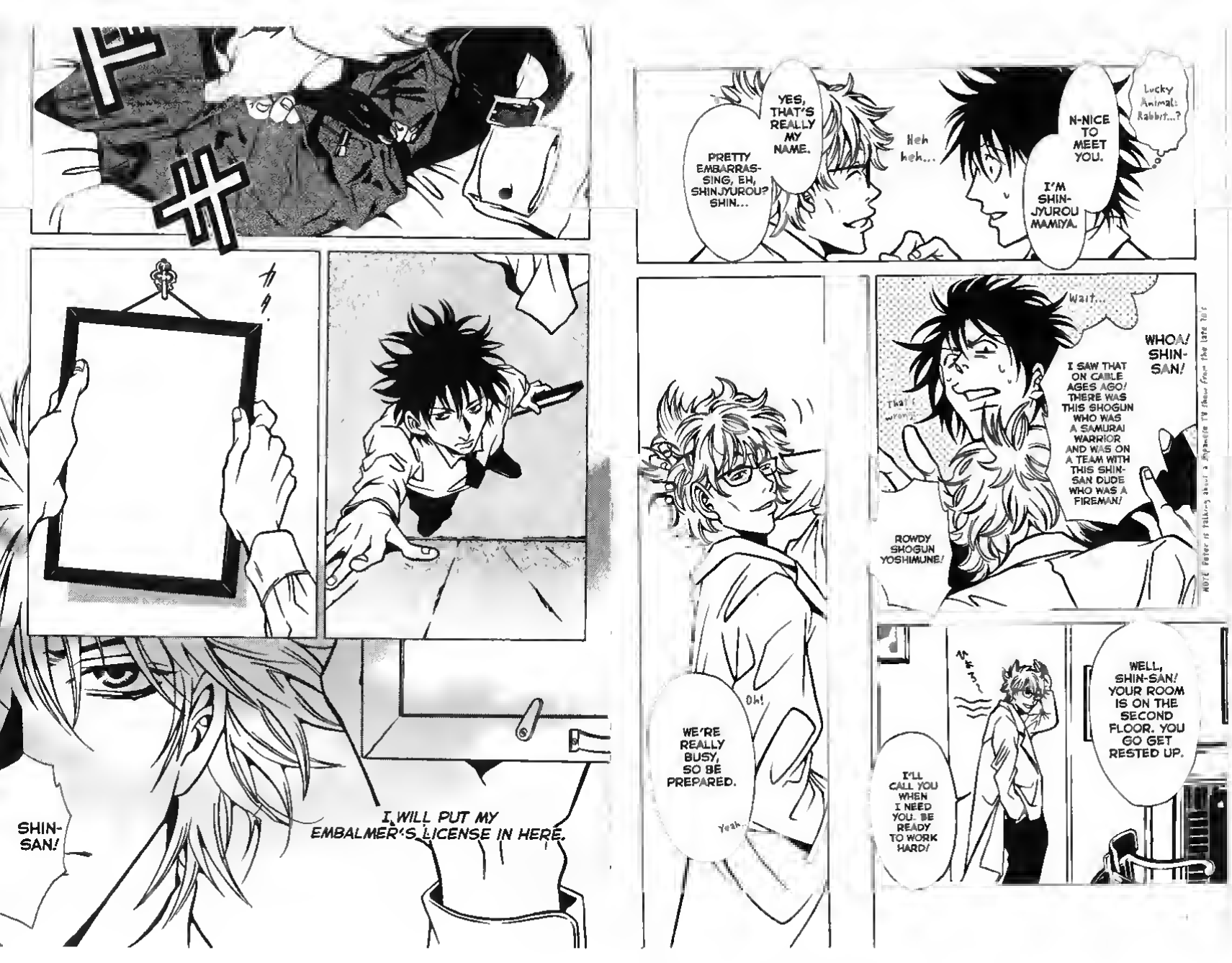
Embalming 18
The Embalmer, Part 4

SAN FRANCISCO, EH?

I'LL SAY GOODBYE WHEN YOU HEAD BACK TO JAPAN...
...ONCE BOTH OF US ARE EMBALMERS!
I'M NOT GOING THERE FOR SIGHT-SEEING!
IF YOU CAN'T DECIDE WHICH RESTAURANT TO EAT AT IN CHINATOWN, JUST PICK ONE WITH LOTS OF CHINESE PEOPLE IN IT!

WHAT CAN I DO WITH THESE HANDS?
SO I WON'T SUFFER LOSS... SO I WON'T REGRET...
SPEED CHECKED BY RADAR
SPEED LIMIT 45
YOU CAN COUNT ON IT!

NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M PETER RABBIT.
YES.
YOU IN GOOD SHAPE?
WE'RE OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY, SO THERE'S NOT A LOT OF TIME FOR REST.
K.F.I MORTUARY
HEY, PETER!
OH, PERFECT TIMING! THIS IS THE EMBALMER YOU'LL BE WORKING WITH.
CLICK
THIS IS OUR NEW INTERN. TAKE CARE OF HIM, OKAY?
OH, OKAY.
CLICK
OUR OWNER IS JAPANESE, SO WE HANDLE A LOT OF ASIAN FUNERALS
WE CALL THIS AREA LITTLE CHINATOWN
I THINK I PASSED THROUGH BIG CHINATOWN EARLIER BY NORTH BEACH, RIGHT?
I SEE...
YEAH, BUT UNLIKE THAT PART OF THE CITY, THIS CHINATOWN HAS A LOT OF HOMELESS PEOPLE AND DRUG DEALERS.
HUH? SO YOUR FATHER WAS AMERICAN?
EVER BEEN TO CALIFORNIA BEFORE?
NO, IT'S MY FIRST TIME.


Lucky Animal: Rabbit...?
N-NICE TO MEET YOU.
I'M SHIN-JYUROU MAMIYA.
Heh heh...
YES, THAT'S REALLY MY NAME.
PRETTY EMBARRASSING, EH, SHINJYUROU? SHIN...
Wait...
WHOA! SHIN-SAN!
I SAW THAT ON CABLE AGES AGO! THERE WAS THIS SHOGUN WHO WAS A SAMURAI WARRIOR AND WAS ON A TEAM WITH THIS SHIN-SAN DUDE WHO WAS A FIREMAN!
That's wrong!
ROWDY SHOGUN YOSHIMUNE!
MOVIE Peter is talking about a Japanese TV show from the late 70's
WELL, SHIN-SAN! YOUR ROOM IS ON THE SECOND FLOOR. YOU GO GET RESTED UP.
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I NEED YOU. BE READY TO WORK HARD!
Oh!
WE'RE REALLY BUSY, SO BE PREPARED.
Yeah
I WILL PUT MY EMBALMER'S LICENSE IN HERE.
SHIN-SAN!

UH... NO.
ANY IDEA WHAT IT IS?
EVER SINCE YOU GOT HERE, IT'S BEEN STUCK IN MY HEAD.
HUM HMM HMM HUM HUM HMM
HMM HUM HUM HMM

THERE'S TWO, SO HALF-SIES, 'KAY?
OH WELL. SHALL WE GET STARTED?
MR. ANDY MILLER. 72 YEARS OLD. BRAIN HEMORRHAGE DUE TO HIGH BLOOD PRESSURE.
OKAY!

SHIN-SAN!!
COMING!

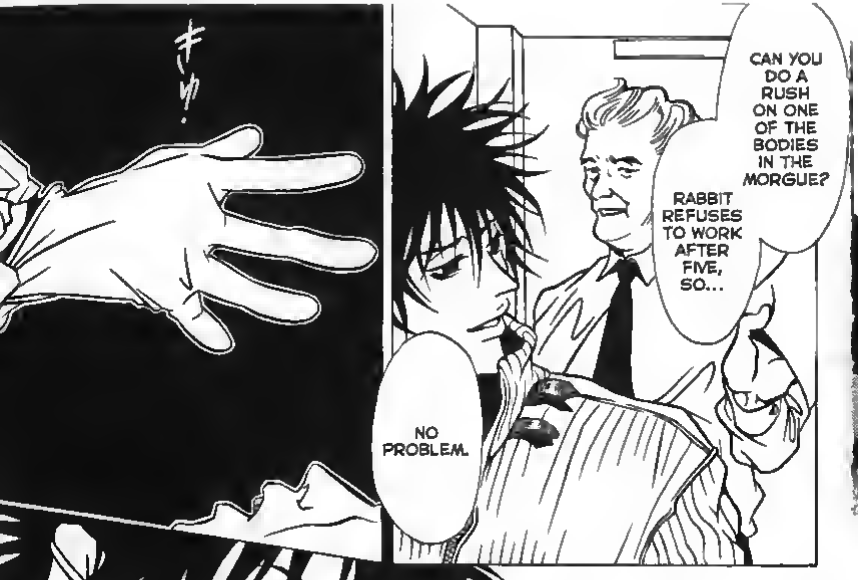
BODY PICKUP AT ST. LUKE'S HOSPITAL! WE NEED IT BY 3 P.M.
NO, SHIN! THIS ONE!
OKAY!
I SEE.
OH... SORRY, I—
CATHOLICS GET THE ONE WITH THE FIGURE OF CHRIST.
SHINJYUROU, THE BURIAL PREP HEARSE IS HEADING OUT!
I SEE.
IN CHINESE SERVICES, THE COLOR OF THE FLOWERS IS DICTATED BY THE CAUSE OF DEATH AND THE DECEASED'S

WHY DID YOU BECOME AN EMBALMER?
THEY ARE PEOPLE.
OH... I DIDN'T MEAN—
I'M SORRY, I—
LUCKILY, MY FRIEND RECOVERED! HE'S BURSTING WITH HEALTH, EVEN NOW!
WHEN I WAS A KID, MY FRIEND WAS HIT BY A CAR.
BY SOME STRANGE COINCIDENCE, I WOUND UP WATCHING AN EMBALMING DOCUMENTARY ON CABLE THAT NIGHT...SO I KNEW IT WAS MEANT TO BE!

MAYBE THAT'S WHY YOUR BLOOD'S NOT DRAINING WELL, HMM?
I'D BE HAPPIER IF YOU WERE A BIT MORE COOPERATIVE!
I'M GOING TO RAISE YOUR LEG FOR A BIT.
OOPS! SORRY! HOPE THAT DIDN'T HURT.
THANK YOU, YES, YOUR COLORING IS LOOKING MUCH BETTER.
HMM?
UMM... MR. RABBIT?
THEY ARE NOT CORPSES.
AFTER ALL, THEY'RE HUMANS, JUST LIKE US.
OF COURSE.
OO YOU ALWAYS... THAT IS... ERR... TALK TO THEM?

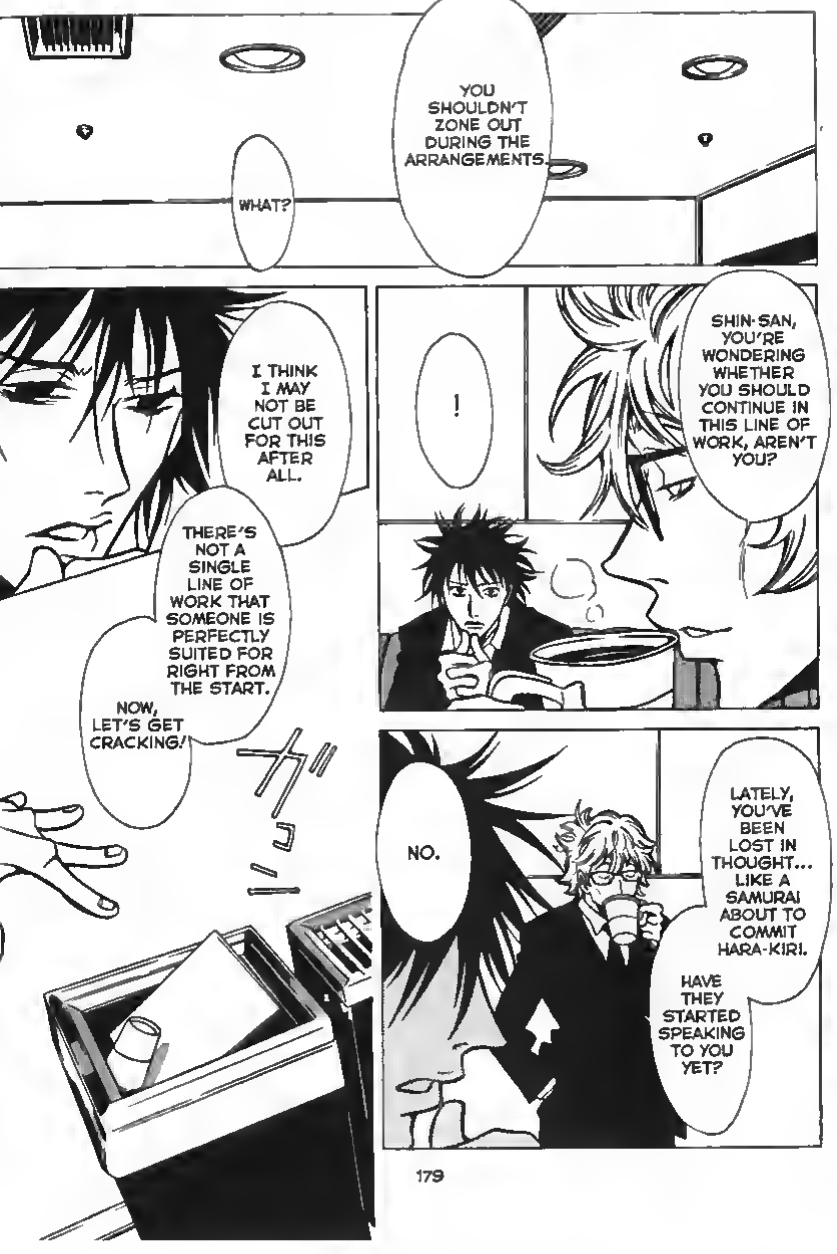
THE SYMBDL DF SAN FRANCISCO, THE GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, IS PAINTED BRIGHT REO SO THAT IT'S VISIBLE EVEN THRDUGH THE WORST OF IT.
THE CITY IS SWALLDWED BY FOG IN THE AFTERNOON.
A VERY PRETTY OOLL...
IT FELT AS THOUGH HE SAW ALL MY UNCERTAINTY.

CABLE TV'S GREAT, ISN'T IT?
Hmm.
AND YOU, SHIN-SAN? WHY EMBALM-ING?
YOUR TECHNIQUE IS VERY ACCURATE, BUT IT LOOKS MECHANICAL.
IT'O BE BETTER IF YOU RELAXEO... ANO LISTENEO TO THE VOICES OF THE BODIES.
BECAUSE IF YOU EMBALM USING ONLY TECHNIQUE, YDU'LL MAKE A VERY PRETTY DOLL.



THE FOG IN MY SOUL CLOUDS MY TRUE FEELINGS.

JUST LET ME HOLD YOU A LITTLE...
PLEASE... LET ME HOLD YOU...
HUH...
.....!
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP
HEY, HEY, WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I DON'T HAVE A GODDAMN FETISH FOR CORPSES!
COLD HANDS.
WHAT... THE...
THIS AGAIN?!
SHIT.


YOU SHOULDN'T ZONE OUT DURING THE ARRANGEMENTS.
WHAT?
SHIN-SAN, YOU'RE WONDERING WHETHER YOU SHOULD CONTINUE IN THIS LINE OF WORK, AREN'T YOU?
!
I THINK I MAY NOT BE CUT OUT FOR THIS AFTER ALL.
THERE'S NOT A SINGLE LINE OF WORK THAT SOMEONE IS PERFECTLY SUITED FOR RIGHT FROM THE START.
NOW, LET'S GET CRACKING!
NO.
LATELY, YOU'VE BEEN LOST IN THOUGHT... LIKE A SAMURAI ABOUT TO COMMIT HARA-KIRI.
HAVE THEY STARTED SPEAKING TO YOU YET?

YES.
DID YOU BRING THE DRESS AND SHOES FOR HER TO WEAR?
THEN THE COFFIN WILL BE... OAK.
IT IS POSSIBLE TO ADJUST THE MINOR DETAILS IN THE VISITATION ROOM.
BUT ...
...CAN SHE REALLY BE LIKE SHE WAS BEFORE? MY WIFE'S FACE, H-HER HEAD...
MR. BURNETT ...
NINA WAS STILL JUST A BABY! IT'S ALL MY FAULT!
MR. BURNETT, PLEASE, HAVE SOME TEA.
IF ONLY I HAD TRIED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT SHE WAS GOING THROUGH!
OH GOD!
The me from the past screams for the warmth of flesh and won't let go.

THEY SAID THE CHILD DOESN'T NEED EMBALMING.
JUST MAKEUP.
THE MOTHER SHOT HERSELF IN THE HEAD. RECONSTRUCTION WILL TAKE AROUND SIX HOURS. THAT'S MINIMUM.
THERE'S TWO, BUT NO HALF-SIES THIS TIME...
HER WRISTS ARE CUT... AND THERE ARE... BURNS AND BRUISES?
IT'S ABUSE, ISN'T IT? SHE KILLED HER CHILD AND THEN...
JUST WHEN SHE MADE IT INTO THIS WORLD...
IS SHE GOING TO PASS ON WITH THE MEMORY OF ABUSE WEIGHING HER DOWN?

THIS WAY, PLEASE.

COULD YOU GET THE EMBALMERS... PLEASE?
To THEA W.

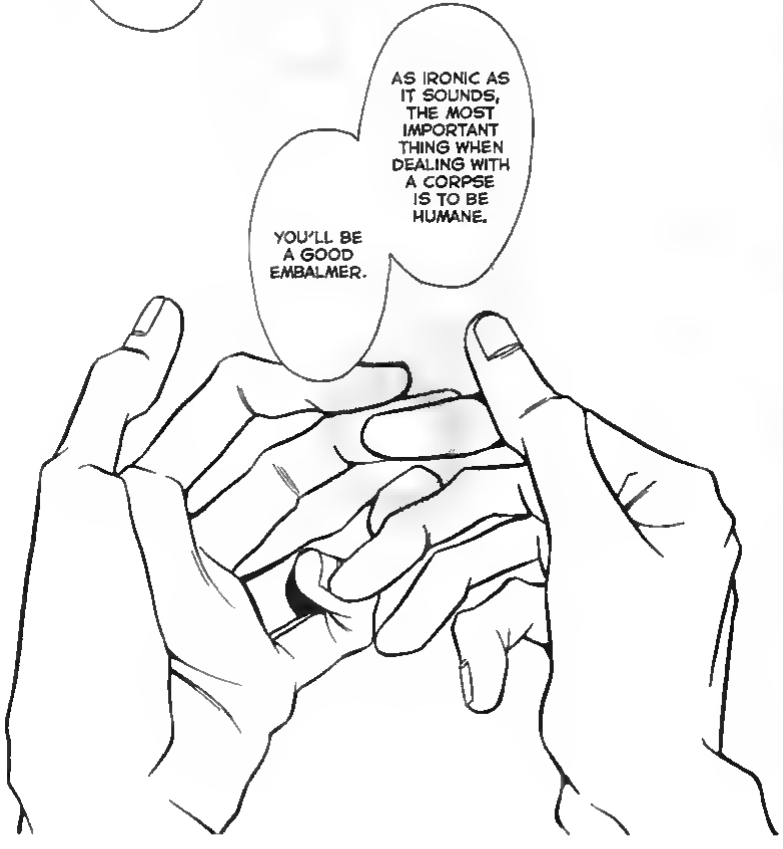
HER VEINS ARE SO NARROW...
I GUESS I'LL CLOSE THE MOUTH WITH THREAD.
THE EYE CAPS AND MOUTHPIECE WON'T FIT, WILL THEY?

THE CHEMICALS STING YOUR EYES, HUH? SHOULD I CHANGE THE DIRECTION OF THE AIR CONDITIONING?

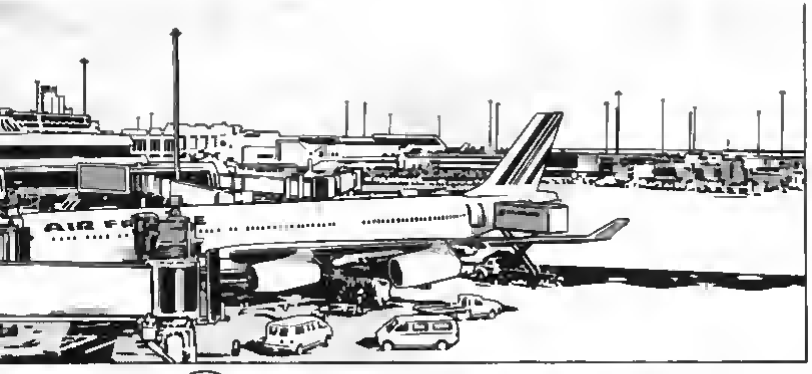
YES.

I WAS SO ENGROSSED IN MY WORK THAT I DIDN'T KNOW—NO, I TRIED NOT TO NOTICE...
...THAT MY WIFE FELT SO TRAPPED.
I DIDN'T DREAM THAT THIS WAS HAPPENING TO MY DAUGHTER.
BUT WHEN I LOOKED IN THE COFFIN... I KNEW.
I NEVER SAW MY WIFE HOLD MY CHILD. NOT EVEN ONCE.
I NEVER SAW THEM HAPPY LIKE THIS.

EMBALMING CAN'T WARM A CORPSE...
...BUT, AS YOU SAW, IT CAN WARM A PERSON'S HEART.

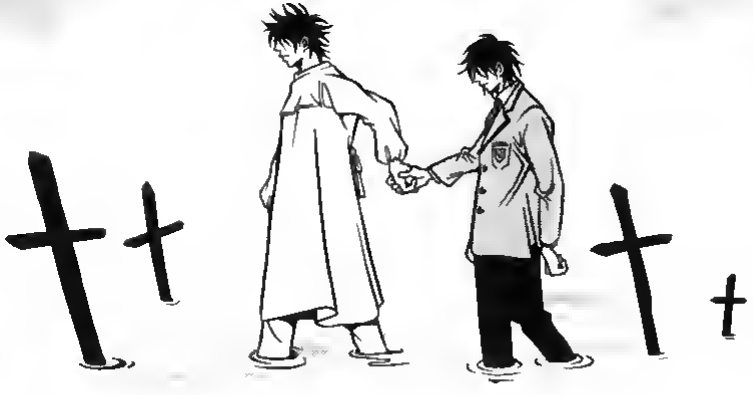

AS IRONIC AS IT SOUNDS, THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WHEN DEALING WITH A CORPSE IS TO BE HUMANE.
YOU'LL BE A GOOD EMBALMER.

NO REASON, REALLY.
I JUST THOUGHT SHE MIGHT WANT TO BE BEAUTIFUL WHILE IN HER MOTHER'S ARMS.
SHIN-SAN, WHY DID YOU EMBALM THE BABY?
TAP
HER VOICE.
YOU HEARD IT, DIDN'T YOU?

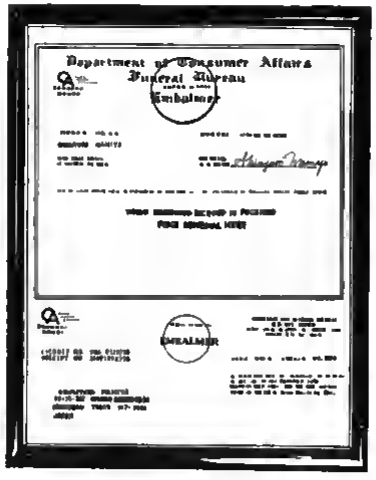


INSTEAD...

...IN EXCHANGE FOR THE WARMTH OF MY FLESH... MY COLD HANDS CAN WARM OTHER'S HEARTS.



SHIN, YOU GOT YOUR LICENSE... DIDN'T YOU?
Can't take your eyes off him for even a second...
WHY ELSE WOULD I BE HERE?
OH...
HEY, CHAN, LET ME HEAR YOUR ANSWER NOW, FINALLY...
...DO YOU THINK YOU COULD EMBALM SOMEONE YOU LOVE?
OH... THAT'S RIGHT, HUH?

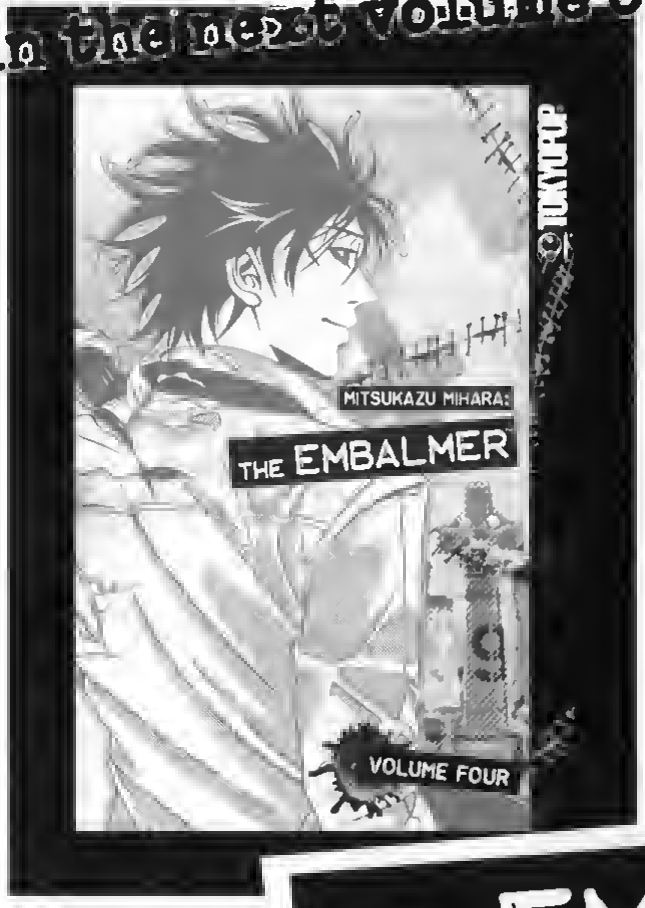


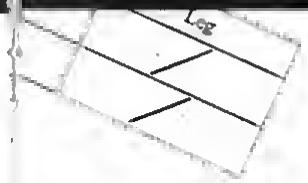
Embalming 15 -19

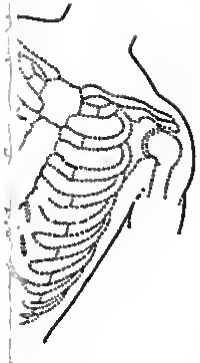
The Embalmer

End

In the next volume of...







An embalmer is only as good as the facility he works in. And would you want someone who works on the bodies of the deceased working next door to you? I didn't think so.

We've witnessed how Shinjyuron obtained his diploma, but in Volume 4, we see how he came to set up shop in an abandoned church... and how he first met Azuki. We also meet a young lady who actually longs for death, believing it will bring her the sort of attention and beauty she's lacked in life. Finally, we meet a man who suffers from an unusual problem. His short-term memory is damaged, and he can only retain thoughts and memories for a few hours. Frustratingly, he knows there's something crucial he was supposed to remember, but what could it be? The answer to this mystery may surprise you in the clever story, "Unforgettable Bond."

THE EMBALMER™

TOKYOPOP®

Manga
Drama
US $9.99
CAN $12.50
UK £6.99

THE EMBALMER™

Mitsukazu Mihara's unsettling look at the fine line that separates life from death continues...

In this volume, we journey to the past, where we learn how Shinjyurou began his unusual profession. As the son of an embalmer who was so immersed in work over family life, Shinjyurou had every reason to hate his father's job. But a tragic string of events gives Shinjyurou a heart-breaking, unforgettable look at the man who must deal with loss all the days of his life.

"This book will really tug at your heartstrings, but it also might become a treasured part of your bookshelf."

—IGN

THE MANGA REVOLUTION • LEADING THE MANGA REVOLUTION • LEADING
漫画革命

ISBN 978-1-59816-648-4
9 781598 166484 50999
www.TOKYOPOP.com

OT
OLDER TEEN
AGE 16+

DRAMA